

THE VILLAGE HUG



Connecting Community Creatively

Issue 12 – 24th July 2020

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.”
Romans Chapter 15, Verse 5*

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

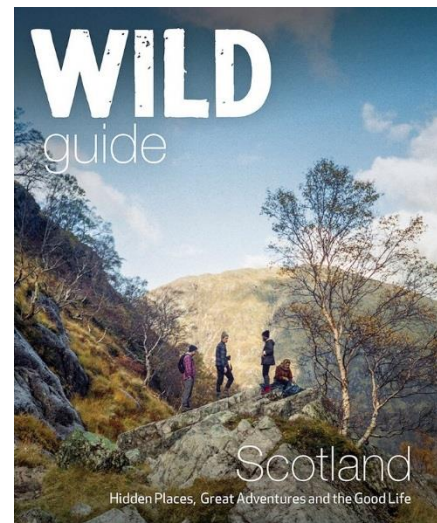
INTERVIEW – *Wild Guide by Kimberley Grant*

In early 2015 I contacted the author and publisher of the best-selling Wild Guide and Wild Swimming guidebooks to find out if he was interested in publishing a new guide to wild swimming in Scotland. After a number of phone calls and email exchanges, myself and my two friends Richard and David had signed a contract and were all set to produce Wild Guide Scotland – a 304 page guide to the most interesting walks, swim spots, wild camping, glens, forests and coasts in the highlands and islands.

Over the course of two years, we spent hundreds of hours at home in Glasgow researching and planning our trips with a collection of old books and OS maps. Between part-time jobs and freelance photography gigs, we'd head up north in either my sister's Fiat 500, David's Suzuki Jimny or my tiny campervan to revisit some of our favourite remote places and explore new ones. Our adventures included wild swims inside Fingal's Cave and abandoned slate quarries, multi-day walking adventures along the coast of the Isle of Rum and deep into the glens of the Cairngorms, a boat trip to the isolated archipelago St Kilda and many nights spent in bothies or windy tents.

One of my most memorable trips was when Richard and I travelled to the Outer Hebrides and spent one of our nights there inside an incredible stone bothy that had been hand-built into the side of coastal cliffs on the west coast of Lewis. The bothy has a small hearth and windows facing the North Atlantic and I remember having to stick socks inside gaps of the stone walls to stop the wind blowing in and burning our fire too quickly. Before settling for the night we went outside onto the cliffs to check out the sea and sky and it was then that I saw the northern lights for the first time which was very special.

It's been over three years now since Wild Guide Scotland was published and it's by far still the most interesting and rewarding project I've ever worked on. We're excited to start work on a second book next year which will also cover southern and central Scotland and no doubt include a couple of spots not far from where I grew up here in Torrance.



To find out where to get a copy, head to <http://www.wildguidescotland.com/>

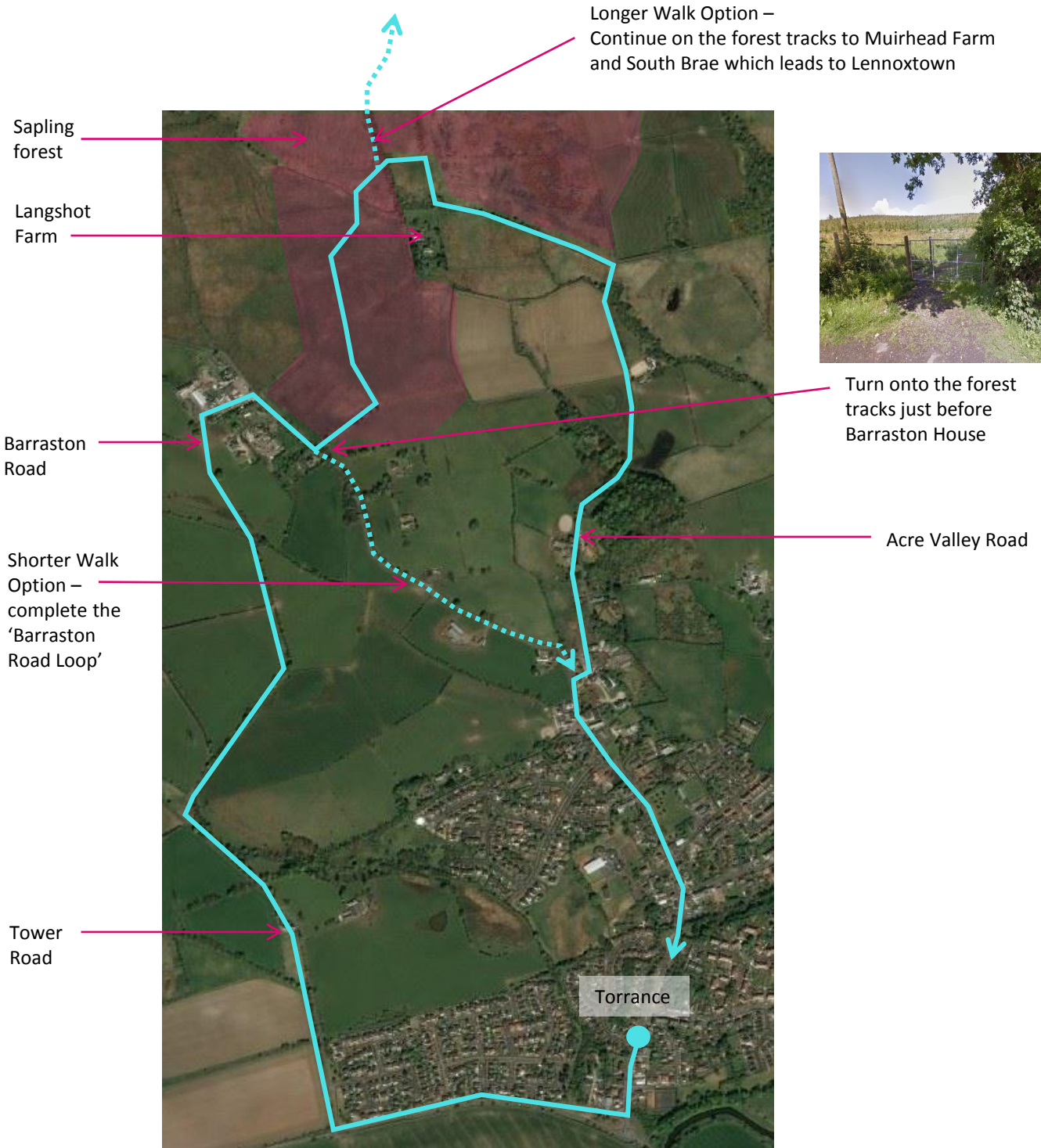
WALKING ROUTE *by David & Janice Russell*

We have been going on brisk walks since lockdown, Monday to Friday. All the walks are very local and average one to three hours.

The walk we do most is Tower Road, Barriston, then at Barriston House go up the walking tracks through 'Langshot Woodland', follow road past Langshot Farm onto Acre Valley and back into Torrance.

If you're looking for a longer walk you could continue going north through the woodland at Langshot until you reach Muirhead Farm on South Brae. This road then leads all the way to Lennoxtown!

If you'd prefer a shorter version then simply keep following Barraston Road to complete the loop.



You will no doubt have noticed the huge number of young birds in your garden or when you have been out for a walk around the village. Blue tits, starlings, blackbirds, robins and a huge variety of young hungry birds are looking for food at the moment and poor parent birds are in real need of sustenance too after the effort they have put into rearing their broods!

While bread is not suitable as it can swell inside a tiny tummy, homemade fatballs are easy to make and will be a very welcome treat.

To make your fatballs you need:

- Lard (you can buy blocks quite cheaply in the supermarket)
- Bird seed/dried fruit/unsalted peanuts/grated cheese

(Note: ratio of lard to seed etc. should be 1:2)

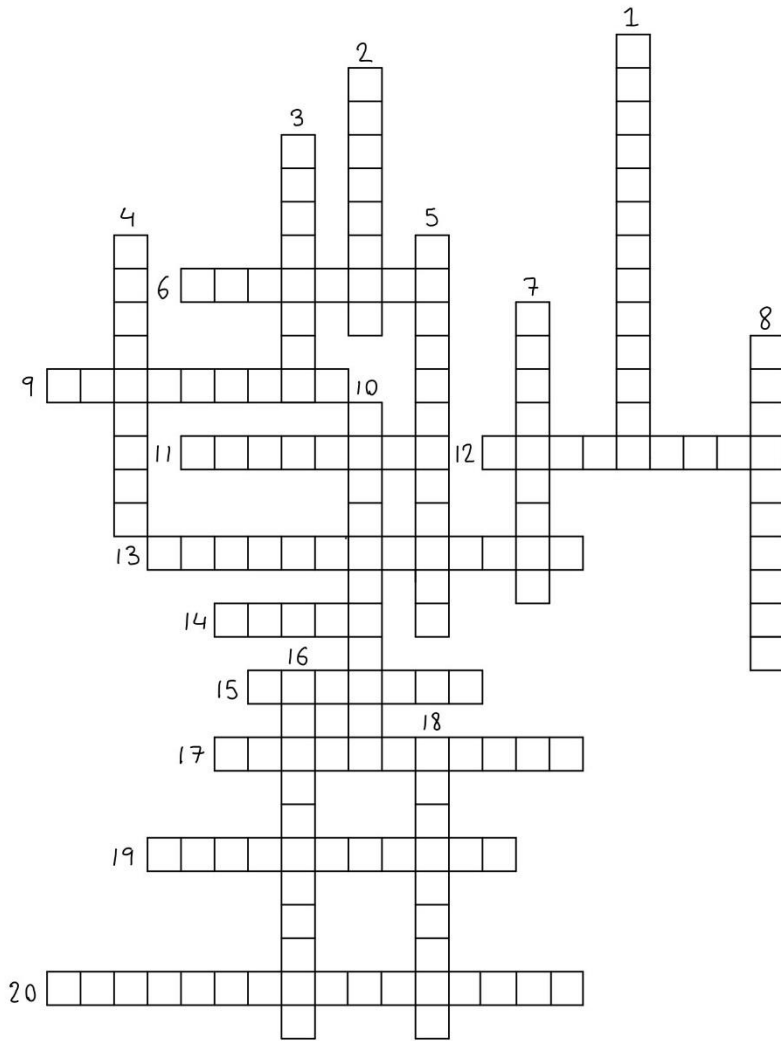
- Yogurt pots, pinecones or old teacups (cracked or broken is fine)
- String
- Mixing bowl
- Scissors



How to make the fatballs:

1. If using dried fruit soak overnight in warm water. Chop peanuts finely
2. Soften but don't melt the lard (that way you get a more even distribution of seed through the mixture)
3. Put the lard in a bowl and add the other ingredients. Squeeze everything together into a dough, making sure the seed etc. is evenly distributed. It's a bit messy but good fun!
4. Tie string round the pinecones, through the bottom of the yogurt pots (pierce a hole in the bottom, knot the string and thread it through from the inside) or onto the handle of the old teacups
5. Squash the mixture round the pinecones or into the pots or teacups
6. Leave to harden in the fridge
7. Hang from a tree or birdfeeder (the old teacups look particularly pretty!)
8. Watch and enjoy!





Across

- 6. Which 2020 film starring Robert Downey Jr tells the story of a physician who can talk to animals?
- 9. Abel Makkonen Tesfaye is the stage name of which act who released 'Blinding Lights' in 2020?
- 11. Which Oscar-nominated artist released the hit album "Chromatica" this year?
- 12. Which rapper announced their presidential run on Twitter this year?
- 13. Who performed in the Super Bowl half time show? (Artist 2)
- 14. Where were the 2020 Olympics supposed to be held?
- 15. Who performed in the Super Bowl half time show? (Artist 1)
- 17. Which former One Direction member released "Watermelon Sugar" and "Adore You"?
- 19. Which country legend known for 'Island in the Stream' and 'The Gambler' sadly died in March 2020?
- 20. Which footballer has the most Instagram followers in the world - as of 2020?

Down

- 1. Which picturesque village was Dominic Cummings driving to when it created a furore?
- 2. Gisaengchung is the original title of this South Korean film which collected four Oscars in 2020. What is the English title?
- 3. Donald Trump will stand against who in the US president election?
- 4. Where was the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest supposed to be held?
- 5. Which Scottish singer-songwriter released the album "Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent"?
- 7. Which actor plays Dr. Ivo Robotnik in the Sonic the Hedgehog movie?
- 8. Which country do the boyband BTS originate from?
- 10. What was the name of the breakout single by Australian artist Tones & I?
- 16. 'Birds of Prey' starring Margot Robbie is based on which character from the DC Comics universe?
- 18. What was the name of the Netflix documentary about Joe Exotic that got everyone talking?

As commuter village residents, what impact will Covid-19 have in the medium and longer term on our working and home lives in Torrance?

Workplaces

It seems clear in the medium term (pre-vaccine) world, we'll see safeguards similar to those that have appeared in shops and restaurants being repeated in workplaces. So, more vigorous cleaning regimes, one-way systems and two-metre distances between workstations will all become the norm.

In the longer term we'll probably see an upgrade in technology so that people don't have to touch light switches or door handles as much – for example, automated doors, voice- or phone-app controlled lighting and lifts will become standard.

We could see a move away from the trend for completely open-plan offices back to a more partitioned or booth type arrangement. This is not only about making any potential virus less likely to spread but also about making people *feel* safer. Technology will be used to book desk spaces and meeting rooms on a daily basis. Generating paper and related filing will be discouraged – the elusive paperless office will be pursued more vigorously than ever before!

In most cases existing air conditioning in offices only moves air around and cools it, but we may see a move to add filtration and purification into these systems – as is common in countries like China.

The furniture in offices could see a shift to materials that can be cleaned with more powerful detergents without deteriorating and therefore withstand nightly deep-cleans.

Working From Home

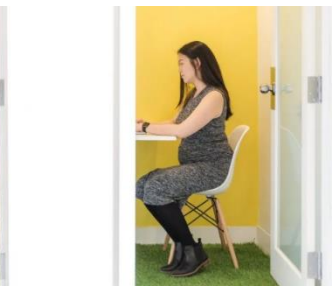
Several recent surveys suggest more than 70% of UK office workers would like more flexible working to continue beyond the current crisis. Until now many big corporations have been reluctant to allow much home-working but the technology has been proved to work and people have ably adapted. There will always be a place for face-to-face meetings and round-table workshops, but if every person in Glasgow kept working from home even a few days a week it could have huge implications for our built environment. Fewer employees in the office at any one time might mean less floor space required for businesses overall. We might therefore see a shift over the next decade from office space in the city to more city centre living.

Back in commuter towns, we might see more house extensions to incorporate permanent working spaces. There could also be opportunities for small businesses to capitalise on a working population spending more hours per week in their local neighbourhoods – perhaps there will be more desire to use localised shops, gyms & nurseries etc.

Streetscape

Already, as a necessity, cities around Scotland have become more pedestrian and cycle friendly during this crisis. This is due to a need for people to socially distance and to avoid public transport where possible. Many will be keen to see this and alfresco dining become permanent fixtures on our streets. Electric scooters for hire have been made legal to ride in the UK recently, which will change the pavement environment for pedestrians.

Craig is an architect working in Glasgow.



Trip back to the farm

Running out of things to do? Try the Village Hug's very own board game! The animals have become lost and need to find their way back to the farm. Can you help them get back?

What you'll need:

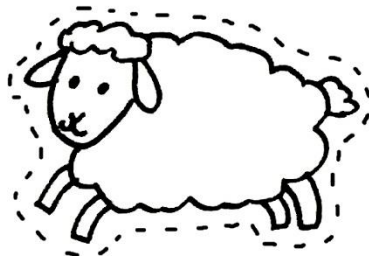
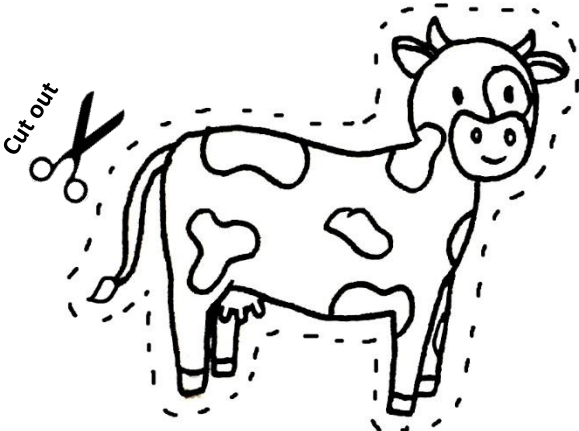
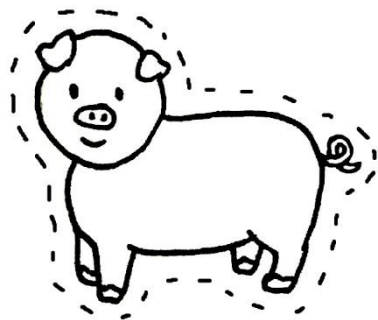
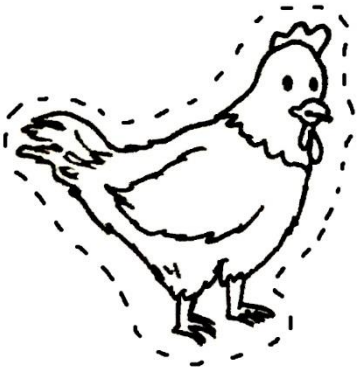
2-4 players

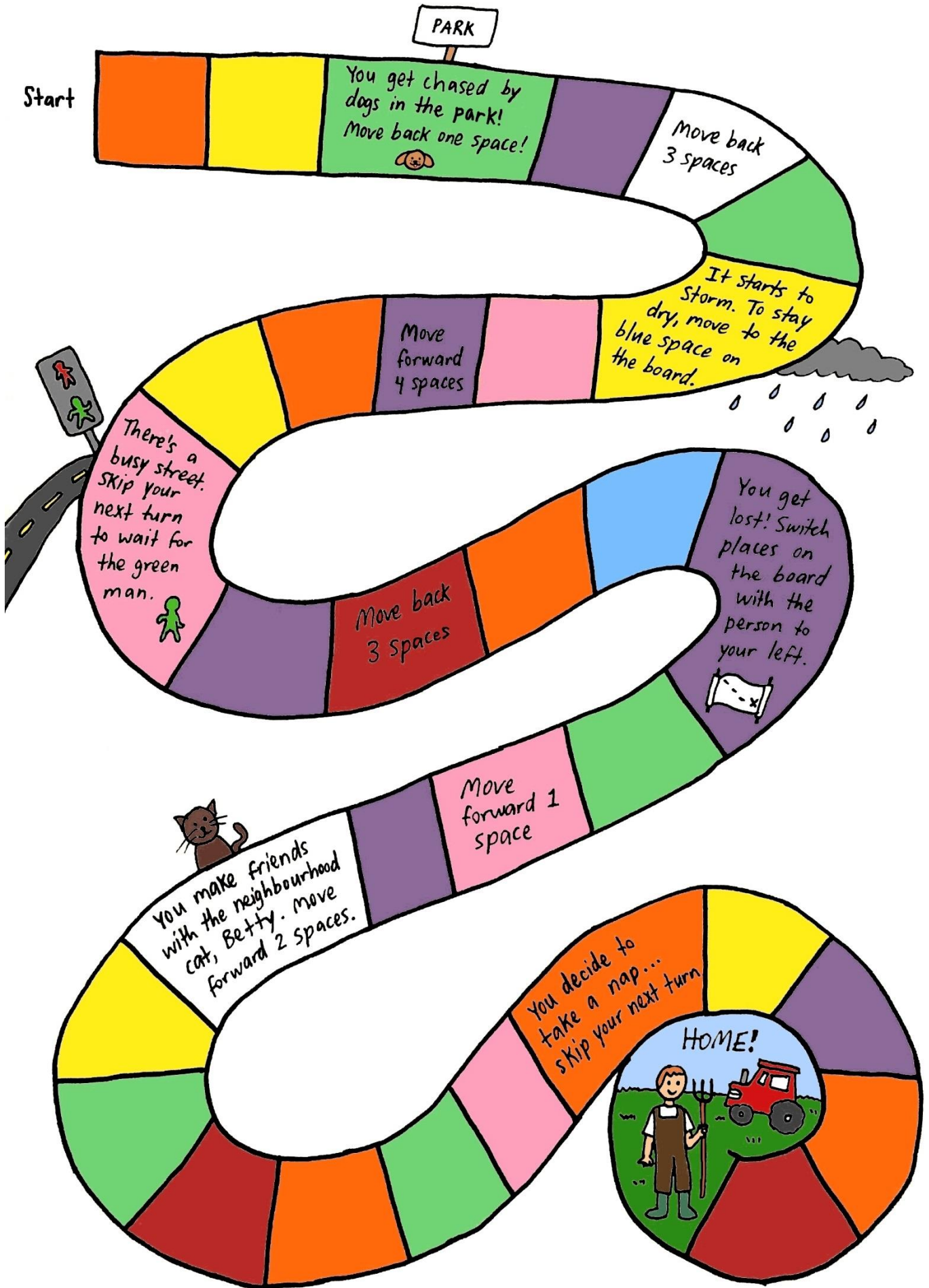
One 6-sided die

Game board

Game pieces

Print out the game pieces below, and the game board on p7. Colour, then cut out the game pieces along the dotted lines. Ask for an adult's help if you need it. Roll the die to determine how many spaces your game piece moves. The first one to reach the farm at the end of the board wins!





It's the summer holidays in Scotland, so no doubt there will be a few days of rainy weather ahead! Why not sit down to watch a movie at home and try out one of these more unusual popcorn toppings?

Sea salt + warm honey



<https://www.thefauxmartha.com/2012/02/13/sea-salt-honey-butter-popcorn/>

White chocolate + lavender



<https://www.howsweeteats.com/2012/07/white-chocolate-lavender-vanilla-popcorn/>

Peanut butter



<https://www.acozykitchen.com/peanut-butter-popcorn>

Toasted coconut



<http://www.shutterbean.com/2013/toasted-coconut-popcorn/>

Twix caramel



https://www.twopeasandtheirpod.com/twix-caramel-popcorn/#_a5y_p=1035863

Rosemary, butter + lemon



<https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelysanders/party-popcorn-bar>

Parmesan + garlic



<https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelysanders/party-popcorn-bar>

Maple syrup + bacon



<https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelysanders/party-popcorn-bar>

Chili + oil



<https://mexicanfoodjournal.com/chili-spiced-popcorn/>

Marshmallow



<https://life-in-the-lofthouse.com/marshmallow-popcorn/>

Lime + salt



<https://www.mysequinedlife.com/salted-lime-popcorn/>

Cake mix + sprinkles



<https://www.doubledutymommy.com/funfetti-birthday-cake-popcorn-caramel-nutella-popcorn-movie-lovers-sweeps/>

Send us your unusual popcorn topping recipes to thevillagehug@gmail.com

“Dear Lord,

Thank you that you are interested in each one of us and that we can bring all our cares and concerns to you, no matter how big or small.

Thank you that lockdown is beginning to ease and that we have more freedom of movement. May we continue to be wise and mindful of others as we enjoy that freedom.

Help us to appreciate holiday time, rest and relaxation even if it is different from what we may have planned.

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.

SUNDAY MORNINGS -UPDATE!

Torrance Parish Church, while eager to re-open the building for services when safe to do so, will continue to 'meet' by Zoom on Sundays at 10.30am and for prayer on Wednesdays, until after the school summer holidays.

When we do re-open, we will continue to broadcast services 'live', so joining in from home will remain an option



GLASGOW QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Maryhill
2. Knightswood
3. Bellahouston
4. Cardonald
5. Anniesland
6. Springburn
7. Sheildhall
8. Kings Park / Queens Park
9. Tollcross
10. Castlemilk
11. Whiteinch
12. Drumchapel
13. Govan
14. Crookston
15. Yorkhill
16. Barlanark
17. Wellhouse
18. Sandyford
19. Croftfoot
20. Halfway

Ingredients:

- 4 oz butter or margarine
- 5 oz milk cooking chocolate
- 3 tablespoons syrup
- 8 oz crushed digestive biscuits
- 8 oz Maltesers
- 14 oz white cooking chocolate

Method:

1. Melt the butter, milk chocolate and syrup together in a pan on the hob or bowl in a microwave.
2. Add the crushed biscuits and Maltesers and mix together.
3. Empty the mixture into a baking tray and flatten slightly.
4. Melt the white chocolate and cover the mixture.
5. Cool in a fridge, but slice into portions before it gets too hard!



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.

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