

THE VILLAGE HUG



Connecting Community Creatively

Issue 13 – 7th August 2020

*“And they did not do as we expected,
but they gave themselves first to the Lord
and then to us in keeping with God’s will.”
2nd Corinthians Chapter 8, 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 –with Jonathan Girvan about Modern Slavery

In September 2016, I left Torrance to join Unseen UK’s Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline. As a Christian, I know God cares deeply about justice and has called His people to plead the rights of the vulnerable and the oppressed. And so, it has been a great privilege to fight against slavery and human trafficking in the UK through my work during the last 4 years. With an estimated 40.3 million people living in situations of slavery around the world today, and 100,000 of these people believed to be in the UK alone, modern slavery is one of the great injustices of our time.

The Helpline provides a free, confidential, 24-hour service to report concerns of exploitation and modern slavery and to support victims through advice and support. In serving as a safety net for many situations of exploitation and trafficking that are not otherwise addressed, the importance of the Helpline’s role in combatting modern slavery in the UK cannot be overstated. Calls to the Helpline from the public have often resulted in the rescue of victims, who come from all walks of life and can be any age, gender, nationality or ethnicity. When victims call the Helpline, it is sometimes their first opportunity to reach out for help and receive support to escape an exploitative situation.



Crimes that encompass modern slavery can seem distant and difficult to confront, but the reality is that slavery is in our midst in nearly every industry, remaining unseen and unchallenged for years. Car washes, nail salons and massage parlours are places where victims of modern slavery have been uncovered in recent times. However, victims have also been found on farms, in factories, warehouses, shops, hotels and working in private residences as domestic servants. Victims are also sometimes recruited to work in drug smuggling operations. Exploiters and traffickers will often target victims who are vulnerable and force them into modern slavery through threats, coercion, violence and confinement. Victims may have had their documents and possessions stolen from them, and may be monitored by their exploiters to prevent them from escaping.

So, if you are reading this and wonder what you can do about it, I recommend the following:

- 1) *Pray for the work that anti-slavery organisations such as the Helpline provide.*
- 2) *Educate yourself on the signs of modern slavery. <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>*
- 3) *Report any concerns you have to the Helpline on 08000 121 700.*
- 4) *Download the ‘Unseen’ app, if you have a smartphone, to find out more information about modern slavery and discreetly report concerns directly to the Helpline.*
- 5) *Consider if you feel moved to support the anti-slavery movement either by volunteering, giving, or even seeking out work in this field.*

.... And if you see me around Torrance, please come and talk to me about it.

Jonathan is a human rights professional with a Masters of Laws in International Law and Humanitarian Law and is a New York Bar exam Candidate.

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian – Cert PG, Film 4 – 17:35, Saturday 8th August

The sequel to the original *Night at the Museum* is a great re-visitation of what made the original so enjoyable. Ben Stiller's performance in the film is comedic and well-acted, while also bringing a sense of heart and nobility to the film's core. The film also features the late, great Robin Williams, and if that isn't enough to get you interested then nothing will. While the film's villain may be a generic evil baddie, the actor does a good job of making him dislikeable, which is more than enough for a film like this.

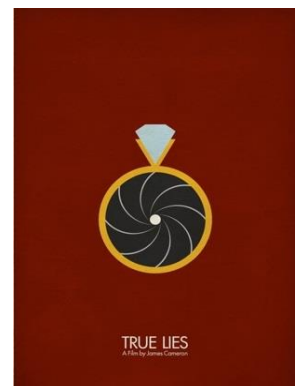
3/5 Village Hugs



True Lies – Cert 15, E4 – 21:00, Sunday 9th August

While it's one of James Cameron's lesser known films, it is one of his more comedic. Arnold Schwarzenegger brings his comedy chops to the table, a side of his profession he doesn't often get to showcase. Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis have great chemistry together and their relationship is easily one of the best parts of the film. The action scenes are also well shot, and the comedy throughout the film separates it from your generic eighties/nineties action film.

4/5 Village Hugs



Guardians of the Galaxy – Cert 12A, BBC One – 22:20, Saturday 15th August

Guardians of the Galaxy was an essential breakout film for Marvel Studios, at a time when people were beginning to get bored of their formula, which is definitely still present, but less prominent due to the more comedic nature of the film's story. Chris Pratt is great as the mercenary Star-Lord, and is no doubt at the heart of the film's plot, but the jokes and gags he manages to pull off are a far contrast from Lee Pace's dead serious portrayal of Ronan the Accuser, so the tone of the film can clash from time to time.

5/5 Village Hugs



Transformers Age of Extinction – Cert 12A, E4 – 17:55, Sunday 16th August

Michael Bay's fourth instalment in his infamous live-action Transformers movie franchise is far from perfect. While the actors don't give their best performances, the film is worth it for the well shot action scenes and the chemistry between the Transformers themselves. Peter Cullen kills it as Optimus Prime, and the Autobots are each given unique personalities this time, as opposed to their rather flat predecessors in the last three films. It can be hard to stay focussed when the film drags on for almost THREE HOURS, but for hard core fans of this franchise, it's worth it to see the Dinobots in action.

3/5 Village Hugs





Take a walk in the wild side!

If like me you prefer a walk or run away from the tarmac then this route is for you.

From the church head down the Main Street to the roundabout and follow the path along the Kelvin. At the moment the path along the side of the golf course is flooded but if you want a wee adventure you can clamber along the high path among the brambles! As an alternative you can follow the main road and join the canal at Hungryside.

Either way, follow the path past Cadder church and head along the canal towards The Leisuredrome. Come off the canal, turn left and then re-join on the top side of the canal (see photo below the map).

To me, this side of the canal is much more interesting! Continue to follow the path, crossing the road, walking in front of Bridge Cottage (see photo below the map).

The path gives you a high or low trail option but both join up again further on. The trail opens into a field and back onto the main road at Hungryside. Follow the road back down the hill and into Torrance.

This circular route is about 5.5 miles and will take around 2 hours to walk



THE
VILLAGE
HUG



The next issue of The Village Hug due for publishing on – 21st August will be our final one, so it's your final chance to send us your articles or stories to thevillagehug@gmail.com

With lockdown now easing and schools going back, now feels like the appropriate time for our young team of contributors to concentrate again on their school and university studies!

In recent years we've all got used to using liquid soap. Plastic pump dispensers have become the norm in our kitchens and bathrooms and somehow, we've managed to convince ourselves that it's more hygienic than using a bar of soap. The truth is it's just so easy – press the top and the soap magically appears in your hand. No effort required!

But what happens when the dispenser is finished? Its plastic and metal components usually just end up in the recycling bin, adding to the plastic mountain. It is possible to buy refills which is a good, if not perfect, option. But what about just buying a bar of soap and a pretty soap dish? Most bathroom wash hand basins still have space next to the taps for holding a bar of soap, and it looks much nicer than even the best liquid dispensers.

It's also worth remembering, in this time of uncertainty, our island communities rely on tourists which are in short supply this year. A lot of the islands have small soap companies which need support more than ever. Arran Aromatics is probably the most well known but there are soap companies on Mull, Islay, Skye, Orkney and Shetland to name just a few and all have their own unique spin on things. Yes, the soap is a bit more expensive than the mass-produced supermarket brands, but most don't charge postage and will have deals for multiple purchases.

Closer to home, the Caurnie Soaperie in Kirkintilloch sells unwrapped soap, which is available from Gavin's Mill, Mugdock Country Park and from their own premises on Canal Street, Kirkintilloch as well as on-line. They have been manufacturing soap since 1922 in their Kirkintilloch soastery!

So why not ditch the plastic containers and try some of the lovely soaps our island communities and local suppliers have to offer?



A selection of contact details for your consideration:

- Caurnie Soaperie (products available locally) www.caurnie.com
- Isle of Mull Soap Company (the Mull Heather Soap is lovely!) www.isleofmullsoap.scot
- Spirited Soap, Islay (whisky scented soaps!) www.spiritedsoaps.com
- Skye Soap Company (use recycled packaging) www.skye-soap.co.uk
- Orkney Star Island Soaps (also sell shampoo and conditioner bars) www.orkneystarilandsoap.co.uk
- Shetland Soap (work alongside people with learning disabilities and autism) <https://shetlandsoap.co.uk/>

Doolittle by Pixies.

I first found out about the Pixies album Doolittle after hearing the song 'Debaser' in a video game. It was after hearing that I was hooked on the weird but wonderful sound that is Pixies. The 1980's alternative rock band from Boston were very different from a lot of the other bands at the time. They heavily used and popularised the quiet loud dynamic as well as having weird vocals which usually verge more on shouting than singing. These factors combined with the extremely catchy guitar riffs are the reason I like the band so much. And I put this album as my favourite because I feel it is the Pixies' sound at its absolute best.



Doolittle is one of the most influential albums out there. Nirvana front man Kurt Cobain even admitted that he tried to rip off Pixies when making their most successful album 'Nevermind.' This shows how much of a mark Doolittle has left on music, as without that there would have been no grunge explosion in the 90s and music would be much different to what it is now.

If I was to pick just one song as my favourite, I would have to say 'Debaser'. It is a lively, up-beat song about a surrealist movie Black Francis (singer of Pixies) watched. I find it fun to listen to and it is as classic a Pixies' song as there is.

BACK TO SCHOOL ADVICE

Parent Club

For anyone anxious about their children returning to school, the Parent Club website in the link below is well worth a read.

It has specific advice pages for parents of children in nursery, primary school, secondary school and additional support needs. It also has sections discussing children starting P1 or S1, FAQ and a 'Helping your child with worries about going back to school' page.

<https://www.parentclub.scot/>



The Parenting Across Scotland website in the link below is another source of useful advice for parents.

<https://www.parentingacrossscotland.org/info-for-families/>

Some readers may be unfamiliar with the concept of podcasts.

These are digital audio files published on the internet. You can download them onto your computer, mobile phone or smart speaker. They are typically available in instalments which are downloaded automatically when you subscribe.

Podcasts have become very popular in recent years as there is time on a podcast to go into great detail about your particular subject.

They are relatively simple (and therefore cheap) to produce as they only require a knowable host and basic recording equipment. Their production has continued during the worldwide lockdown for the same reason.

I started using podcasts on my daily commute but continued listening to them during lockdown whilst out for exercise or in the garden. There are now podcasts available for every conceivable subject. Below I've listed a few that I enjoy.



Serial (Crime Investigation)

If you've only heard of only one podcast, then this may be the it. This true crime journalistic investigation follows the case of a murder in Baltimore over 12 episodes. The first two episodes have been downloaded more than 340 million times!

A Scottish 'version' of this, called The Doorstep Murder is also recommended if this is your area of interest. It concerns the unsolved murder of a bank manager in Nairn.



No Such Thing As A Fish (Comedy Factual)

Four of the researchers from the TV show QI (known as the QI elves) discuss unusual facts they have come across each week. Since it's inception in 2014 it's amassed some 700,000 subscribers.



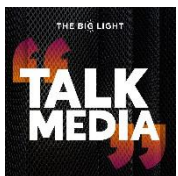
Kermode & Mayo's Film Review (Film Review)

This is the weekly extended version of a 5 Live radio show. It started life as a humble film review segment by Mark Kermode in the 1990's on Simon Mayo's Radio 1 drive-time show. The duo's friendship is what makes the show stand apart from all its imitators.



Nut Meg (Sport)

Presented by writer Daniel Gray, this is a fortnightly podcast that consists of interviews exploring Scottish football and it's cultural implications in all it's glory.



Talk Media (News/Media)

Presented by Stuart Cosgrove with Eamonn O'Neill, this weekly podcast reviews the week's news with a particular focus on how each story is presented in the media around us. This podcast started life as a segment on John Beattie's afternoon Radio show.

If News is your thing, then you may have heard of the BBC podcast 'Brexitcast' which evolved into a tv show, then 'Electioncast' and is now available weekly as 'Newscast'.



Here's The Thing (Showbiz)

If you like TV or show business then it's worth trying 'Here's The Thing'. It's an interview show hosted by Alec Baldwin in New York City. He's got a great voice to listen to and his guests from film, TV and theatre all seem to relax with this 'old friend'.

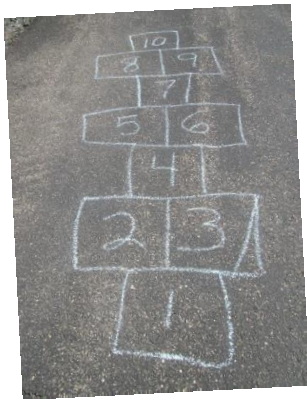
Most big TV shows now have accompanying podcasts with behind-the-scenes content. New shows (for example The Crown) release discussion podcast episodes to coincide with new series being released. There are even fan podcasts for older shows such as Friends and The West Wing, literally going through each episode of the series.

CHALK CHALLENGES

If you've dug out long-forgotten boxes of chalk from the back of a cupboard recently so your kids could draw rainbows on the pavement, then here are a few other ideas to use it for...



Craft... rub the chalk sticks over table salt until the salt takes on the colour of the chalk. Then pour the coloured salt onto empty jars in layers to make ornaments.



Games... introduce your kids to hopscotch, invent a throwing game with points for hitting targets or have race tracks for kids/toys.



Learning... the possibilities are endless –practice numbers, spelling, letter forming, art, colour and shapes.

Send us your ideas for using chalk to thevillagehug@gmail.com

POEM

Life In Lockdown

There are countless conversations
You can have with yourself
And countless irrepressible thoughts.

There are far too many dreams
Interrupted by the morning
Leaving unfulfilled promise.

There's an endless stream of memories
Some to be cherished and held
Others unsuccessfully erased.

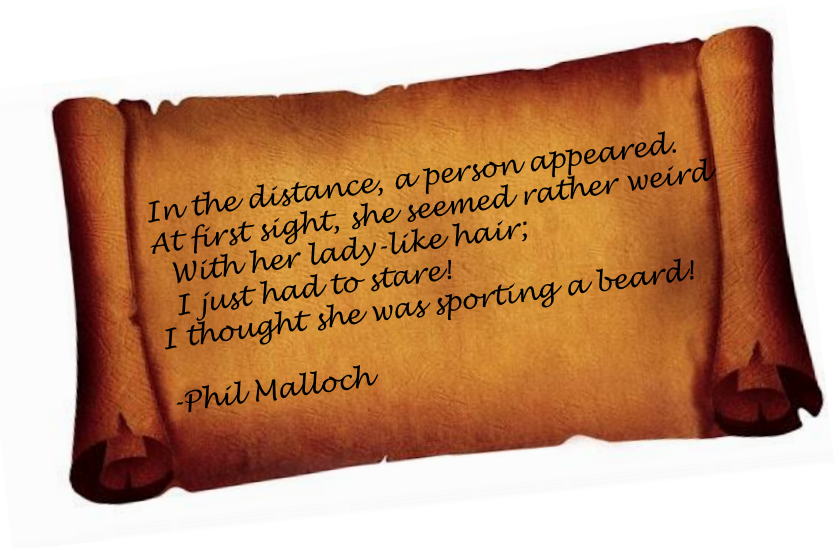
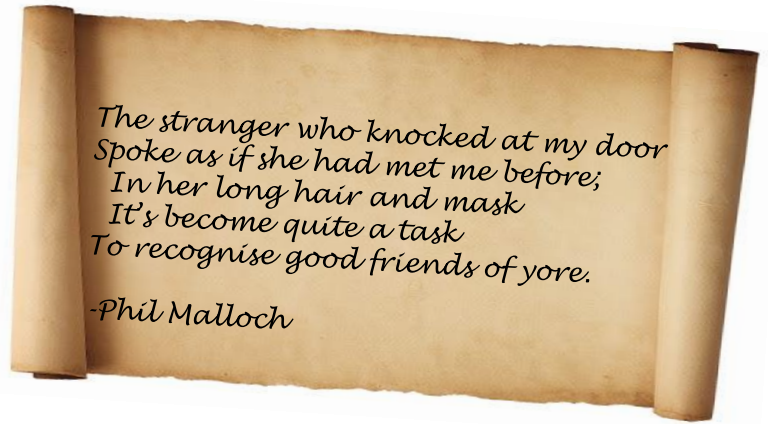
There was once a time of optimism
Now lost in the mists
When life seemed less confused.

There's a dark cloud hanging
Over this beautiful world
Keep it distant
The sun will rise tomorrow.

Believe.

-Roy MacGregor, *Fife*

MORE LIMERICKS!



LOCK DOWN LAUGHS –SPIDEMAN SPECIAL!



"after four months of lockdown..."



"#wearamask"

“Lord and Heavenly Father,

you are a God who answers our prayers. We ask for your presence in the streets and homes of our community.

We pray for safety, wisdom and compassion in all circumstances.

We ask for a community where neighbours learn to love each other and come to know Jesus.

We ask that we can become good stewards of your love to each one of our neighbours and it may be a place where all are welcome.

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.

HOLIDAY CLUB



PAUL'S ADVENTURES ON

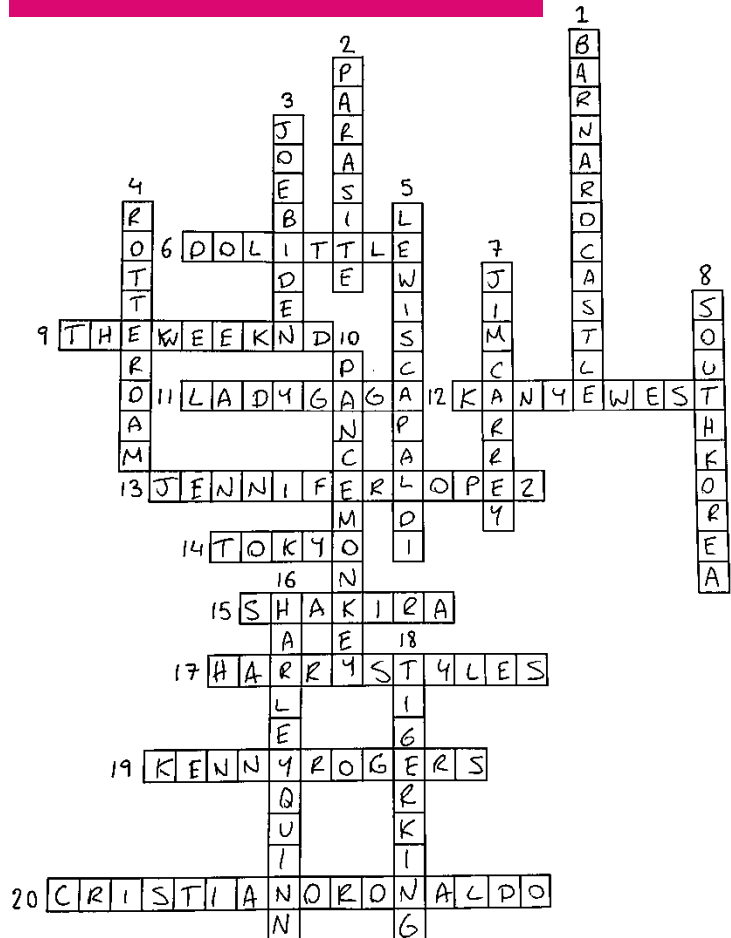


If you missed any of this year's fantastic on-line Holiday Club then simply catch-up by following the link below to the videos from each day.

The YouTube link is:

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCsSrSaGUDhLjtGelZZFXvPg>

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Ingredients:

- 225 g margarine
- 225 g white chocolate
- 2 tablespoons syrup
- 350 g crushed 'Nice' biscuits
- 100 g coconut

- Icing sugar
- Juice and rind of 1 lemon
- Yellow food colouring
- A little coconut

Method:

1. Melt margarine, chocolate and syrup in a pan
2. Add biscuits and coconut and mix well
3. Press mixture into a Swiss Roll tin
4. Add the icing sugar to the lemon juice until it makes a spreadable glacé icing. Add a few drops of the yellow colouring.
5. Cover mixture with icing and sprinkle with extra coconut
6. Cut into squares when set



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE ONLINE

SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30AM EVERY WEEK

During the Coronavirus Emergency you can listen to and watch the service using the Zoom webinar conferencing app. You'll be able to see the song words and the people leading the service. As a viewer you won't be visible on screen.

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

The Meeting ID is: 462 751 387.

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