

TO PROCLAIM, PREACH  
AND LIVE THE GOSPEL  
OF JESUS CHRIST



N E W S L E T T E R

**JUNE 2020**

## Minister



'How are you doing?' The question that I have been asked probably more than any other over this lockdown period. Lockdown, social distancing, 'the new norm' flattening the curve; before the virus I thought zoom was an ice-lolly.

Words that try to describe what is happening.

So, how are you doing? It's not been easy for anyone, each of us having our own challenges depending on our situations. I'm missing church. I get the 'privilege' of attending church to preach the sermon. I'm preaching to a congregation of one: poor Frances is now a trained-up film director. It's hard not seeing you in your usual places, the empty church, no atmosphere, no noise, no children, no heckling from certain members. I'm still praying that we will be returning soon, although it still seems unlikely. We're missing Aria, our granddaughter. We missed her first birthday. She's started to walk although we've only seen this on facetime. She now thinks that her grandparents live in the T.V or the mobile phone.

Hope you are still phoning each other, looking out for friends and neighbours. I'm hearing great stories of the way some of you are responding positively by doing 'acts-of-kindness' for those who need a bit of help or cheering up. We are still church even though we're not meeting on Sundays.

Starting May 31<sup>st</sup> (Pentecost Sunday) I will be starting a series preaching through the Book of Acts. I'm sure God has much to say to us as a church from this book.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (TNIV)*

Some priorities don't change. Take time to meet with God in prayer, find time to read His Word, God will direct you to who you should be speaking to, and what you can do to help those who need a bit of help.

When we return to worshipping together is at the moment unclear, but that day will come..... I'm looking forward to it. Look after yourself. Remember to call the Manse if you need help, people have indicated to me they are willing and able to help. Stay safe, hang in there. I can't wait to see you all again.

God bless: *John*

## Session Clerk

I hope you are managing to cope with these strange times! I have enjoyed opportunities to sit out in the sunshine in my back garden, listening to the breeze and the birdsong; I've also appreciated the blog postings of Kenny Borthwick, a retired minister some of us have heard in the past. He is shielding, for health reasons, and will no longer be speaking at conferences, but he is still busy! A new post was called "Dawn Listening", and I'd like to share just part of it. He writes:

"It is now early morning. I slept well and hope you are still sleeping as I write! The robins woke me up followed by the blackbirds, just as "Springwatch" said would be the case! Whenever you read this, I ask you the question: "How are you getting on with the Bible?"...

"...nothing refreshes my soul like the Bible. If it has become as dry as dust to you, let me share one of the most powerful prayers I have learned to pray: "Lord, renew my relationship with your Word."

Even preachers need to pray that from time to time for their own soul's sake."

"I read a good thought in Henri Nouwen yesterday. "Often we think about the word as an exhortation to go out and change our lives. But the full power of the word lies, not in how we apply it to our lives after we have heard it, but in its transforming power that does its divine work as we listen... it is in the listening that God becomes present and heals... it is a word to heal us through and through, and in, our listening here and now... At first this might sound quite new for a person living in a society in which the main value of the word is its applicability.""

"Right now, before I listen to the Bible, I am listening to the robin and the blackbird speaking into one or two concerns I am carrying, saying, "Don't worry. Your Heavenly Father knows." Maybe you also need to make time to listen to these feathered preachers and messengers that Jesus told us to listen to, as well as listening to the Bible as you open it! May your "listening" today be truly blessed with transforming "presence" and grace. God bless. Kenny."

*Raymond*

## Powerhouse

We are sending regular emails to families with resources and links of interest. If you would like to see these please email: [Troqueerkids@btinternet.com](mailto:Troqueerkids@btinternet.com)

There is lots of online material, two particular recommended sites are

<https://www.facebook.com/michaeljtinker> every weekday at 11am or catch up and Nick and Becky Drake writers "Sign your cross over me" with Family At 4 on Saturdays (you guessed at 4pm)

<https://www.facebook.com/worshipforeveryone/>

We are working on plans for Prizegiving -but like everything else that will be different.

Alison

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## Fairtrade

Fairtrade products are still readily available in local supermarkets and local independent shops so do include in your weekly shop. However, the closure of cafes has impacted Fairtrade suppliers - more information at

<https://www.facebook.com/DumfriesFairtrade/>

## Sing a New Song

Only two new songs and these should be available on Spotify, all are available somewhere online by searching.

King of Kings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5lcFWiEpg>

and A frame so beautifully formed [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evYSp\\_TrzXA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evYSp_TrzXA)

Have a look / listen to these

Sheila

# Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week was very different, no house to house or church collections but we were still able to give a donation - see our local e-envelope [I've just created an e-Envelope for Christian Aid Week. See my message and find out how to send one of your own here.](#)



or <http://www.caweek.org> If you are on Facebook keep up to date with our local page "Christian Aid - Dumfries and District"

Christian Aid has been responding to the spread of coronavirus in very vulnerable places for example in the world's largest refugee camp in Coxexs Bazaar

As this newsletter goes to press India and Bangladesh have been struck by Super Cyclone Amphan - more information on both these emergencies and how any donation we can give will help is on the CA appeals page <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals>

# Bible Translation for the Dobel people in Indonesia

## Jock and Katy Hughes, May 2020

Hello, this is an update on the how the Dobel Bible Translation project is going and some information on the situation there regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

After being back home for Christmas, I, Jock, went back out to Indonesia and the plan was to stay until early April and then come back for a couple of months. Katy came out in early February and left, as planned to return on 17 March. Our plan was to work on the translation of 1 and 2 Corinthians with the Dobel translation team. As a team we worked on translating 2 Corinthians starting with the first draft done by a team member, and took it through all of its stages, including checking the translation in the community, so that now it is ready for its final check with a Bible Translation Consultant. 1 Corinthians was waiting for its final consultant check, and our translation consultant, Kathy, came out to the Aru Islands and we completed the check during February, so 1 Corinthians is now ready for publication, and in fact, along with Romans which was completed at the end of last year, has now been added to the Dobel Scripture app for Android phones (search with quotes on Google Play: "Alkitab Dobel").



*Our consultant check of 1 Corinthians in February  
(L to R: Kathy, the consultant, 3 women from the community,  
then the team: Yoke, Jock, Eka, Utu)*

After Katy had left Dobo and was on her way home to Scotland, it became clear that if I were going to return at all, I would have to leave early. This was easier said than done, and I do thank all of you who prayed for me during my somewhat challenging journey. I first had to change my flight. I tried phoning the airline office in Indonesia, but couldn't get through, and was put in a long queue. But before it was answered my phone cut off every time. In the end I asked if any of our children in the UK could phone the office in London. Our son Malcolm and daughter-in-law, Laura, offered to help. In the end after waiting about two hours Laura got through and made the change. I was emailed an updated ticket, then the very next day I got another email saying that my flight had been cancelled and to phone the airline to arrange another one!! Again I couldn't get through, and again Malcolm helped me out, this time waiting for over two hours in the middle of the night. I now had to arrange flights to get to the capital Jakarta (about 2000 miles away from the remote islands where we work). I managed this and arrived in Jakarta, only to hear from a fellow missionary whom I met at the airport that Singapore would not be accepting transit passengers from that evening.

My flight was due in that evening and my flight to London was due to leave the next morning. It turned out that my flight from Jakarta to Singapore was the last one before they stopped allowing transit passengers through! The following morning, before my flight left Singapore, all we transit passengers were called by the police to go to immigration to register, and we wondered what that meant - but in the end we left on the flight to London. I arrived in London the day after the UK lockdown started, and was met by our daughter Fiona, and husband Mike and their children Zibbie and Freddie. After a night with them, I got a train up to Lockerbie, where Katy met me and took me home to a fortnight of self-imposed quarantine. It turned out that the very evening after Fiona and Mike took me to the station, Mike came down with Corona virus. All the more reason for me to stay quarantined, but by the grace of God, I did not get the virus. Fiona did get it after Mike. Mike and Fiona are much better now, although both of them still have residual respiratory issues 7 weeks later. Thank you again for your prayers for that difficult journey.

It now looks like we won't be able to go back to Indonesia for a while, but there is a lot of work that I can do on the translation on my own, and we have also been able to set up Zoom meetings between me and the Dobel translation team in the Aru Islands to actually work together on the translation. So we met every day for a week in mid-May to discuss and revise the translation of the book of 1 Peter, and hope to do the same again soon for 2 Peter. This involves me getting up early to catch the team in their late afternoon. We can manage 2 to 3 hours of meeting together that way. The team come into the translation office to get an internet connection, and sit in different rooms for social distancing, and then we are able to have our Zoom meetings.



*Dobel team having a Zoom meeting. (Clockwise: Yoke, Jock, Utu, Eka)*

The team have told me that the virus has not made much impact on the Aru Islands yet. The Indonesian government has shut down all internal air and sea travel until the first of June, and all offices, schools and places of worship are closed, so that helps. On the other hand, if the virus does take hold in any given town or village, it will be hard to stop it spreading, because social distancing is more or less impossible. So many people live together in small houses, and the houses are close together. In the villages, people carry water from a communal well or spring, so there is daily contact in these places. Indonesia is a huge and widely spread out country of about 17,000 islands and a population of around 270 million people. Some of the larger islands have very big populations and high population density. Please pray for wisdom for leaders and good communication. Another problem is that rumours and false information about Covid-19 are spreading all over the place, and many people don't know how to distinguish the truth from the rumours. The official figures say only 14,000 cases in the country and 991 deaths (11 May), but we suspect it is much higher.



## Gardening Tips for the Summer

Any trees, shrubs or perennials which have been planted in the last 6 months will require an occasional good soak ( once a week) to help them establish.

The same will apply for summer bedding; many of these plants originally come from hotter and drier countries and they will require watering for 2 or 3 weeks to get them established.

If you have containers and hanging baskets full of summer bedding, they require to be watered once a day throughout the summer. If you think of the surface area of these containers, it is very small and so even if it rains , very little moisture gets to the roots of the plants.

With plants in containers, feed them with a liquid feed once a week; potting composts only have enough food in them to last 6 weeks. You don't want your plants going hungry and not flowering as well as they could.

In your kitchen/vegetable garden keep successional showings of beet-root, carrots, spring onions, dwarf french beans and lettuce going throughout the summer to ensure you have a continuous supply of home grown, tasty food.

Any extra young lettuce plants can always be shared with your friends and neighbours!

People often have problems with blossom-end rot. This is when the young tomato fruit goes black at the bottom. There are lots of myths about what causes this but it is actually caused by irregular watering. This is when the compost in the grobag or container dries out throughout the day. During the growing season, tomatoes can be very thirsty and require watering twice a day. I use 2l plastic milk cartons or plastic bottles. Cut off the base of the carton/bottle then remove the plastic cap. Insert the carton/ bottle cap end first into the grobag/container and push firmly into the grobag/container.

Once you have thoroughly watered the grobag/container, then fill the upturned carton with water and this will slowly seep into the compost reducing the chance of it drying out during the day and causing blossom-end rot.

Tomatoes also benefit from being watered with a solution of Epsom salts once a week when the fruit is forming- 2 teaspoons of Epsom salts to a 2g watering can, this is alongside feeding with regular tomato fertiliser.

To keep roses flowering for longer during the summer remove all dead flowers to encourage new ones to grow.

Do remember to find time to sit in your garden and enjoy the beauty of all your hard work. You will be surprised how close to God you can feel in a garden!

Happy gardening!

Colin Crosbie

Now He who supplies seed to the sower  
and bread for food will supply and will  
multiply your seed for sowing. He will  
increase the  
harvest of your  
righteousness.



2 Corinthians 9:10

## ***From the Editor -***

***If you have any photos of any plants, vegetables or garden projects you have been undertaking during lockdown that you would like to share on Facebook, please message your photo to the Church Facebook page.***

## Planted in the Love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father  
You can grow, dear one,  
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit  
His fruit you'll show,  
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,  
And the thorns threaten,  
And the storms around life's garden blow -  
Your roots will hold,  
And hold secure,  
Because you're planted in the love of the Father.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Creative things you can do with your Bible

Bible Society is urging people to make good use of their enforced time at home by using their creativity to read the Bible with better appreciation. To help with this, Bible Society is offering a range of creative Bible-based resources to help people learn new skills, such as journaling, colouring or doing crafts that are Bible-based.

These include:

**Bless Our Nest (£5.95)** - a colouring book filled with Bible verse designs, featuring colour charts and tools for Bible journaling.

**Faithful Papercrafting (£12.99)** - now you can create note cards, gift tags and scrapbook paper, mini cards, bookmarks and envelope templates full of inspiring Scripture.

**Complete Guide to Bible Journaling (£14.99)** - offering new creative techniques for Bible journaling.

Go to: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>

## Some Useful Links to Help During Lockdown

What to do if you cannot pay your bills or mortgage

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/debt-and-money/if-you-cant-pay-your-bills-because-of-coronavirus/>

Your rights if you are finding it hard to pay your rent

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities>

If you need food and you have no other support, find out how you can get help from your local council

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-local-help>

Find out if you can get a grant if you are a parent looking after a child

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/>

Find out if you can get help if you're clinically at high risk from coronavirus (Gov.scot).

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/pages/overview/>

If you are concerned about your Mental Health or the Mental health of family/friends

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>

If you are worried about your child's Mental Health during COVID-19

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Coronavirus if you are worried about working  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/work/coronavirus-if-youre-worried-about-working/>

Find help with benefits  
<https://www.mygov.scot/benefits-support/>

What to do if you have been furloughed  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-what-to-do-if-youre-employed-and-cannot-work>

Find out your rights in you have been furloughed  
<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus/furlough-scheme-pay>

Support for young people  
<https://www.facebook.com/YouthEnquiryService/>

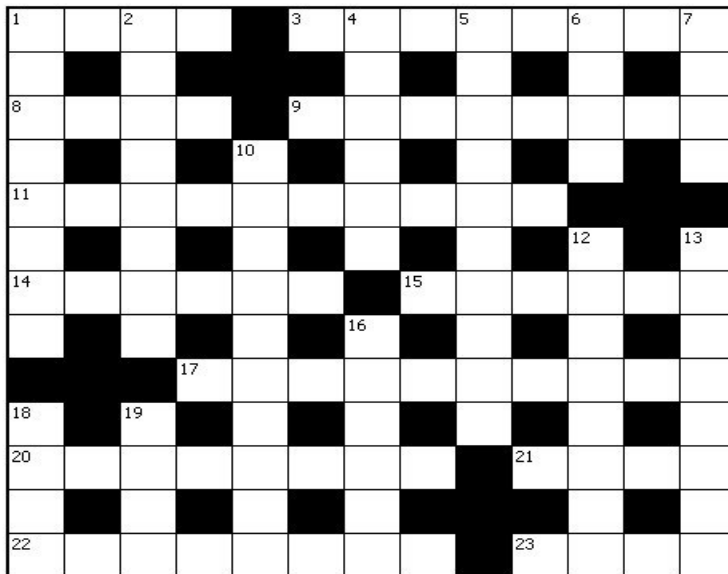


Our church buildings may be closed but church is still here and can still offer support.

If you need support or prayer requests please let us know.

We do currently have a Prayer email that is sent out once a week for anyone who attends the church. If you have a prayer request or would like to receive the prayer email please email

troqueerchurch@gmail.com



### Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

### Down

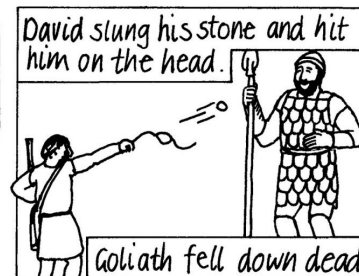
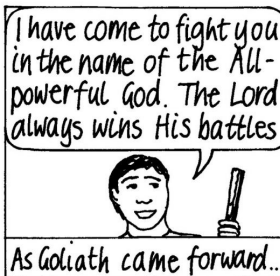
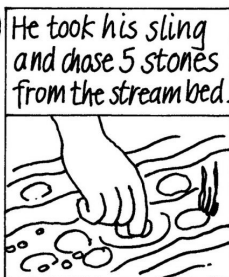
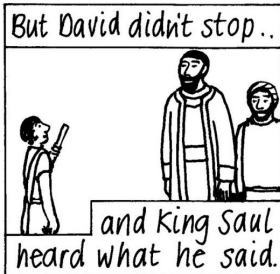
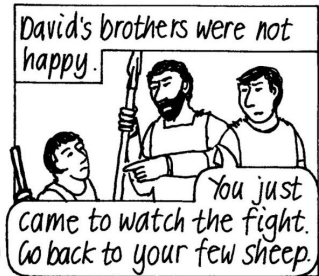
- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

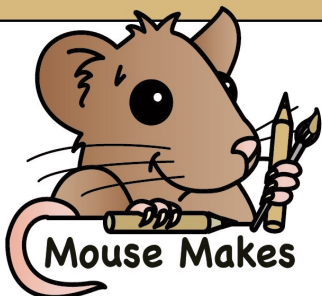
# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies  
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic  
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

**READ** Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY      | ○ GATE     |
| ○ RUBBLE    | ○ BEAM     |
| ○ REPAIR    | ○ BOLT     |
| ○ RESTORE   | ○ BAR      |
| ○ BUILD     | ○ STEP     |
| ○ WORK      | ○ TOWER    |
| ○ STONE     | ○ HOUSE    |
| ○ TIMBER    | ○ POOL     |
| ○ WALLS     | ○ FINISH   |
| ○ FLOOR     | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF      | ○ DOOR     |
| ○ CELEBRATE |            |

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E				A E	
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		R E		R	
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How many gates were repaired?  
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



C	A	R	E		P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E
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N	U	L	L		P	R	O	F	A	N	E	D
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I		I		L		T		C		P		A
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S		D		A		O		N		C		R
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O		L		C		O				E		A
T	R	A	D	E	O	F	F		E	D	E	N

## ANSWERS

### Across

- 1 Care
- 3 Paradise
- 8 Null
- 9 Profaned
- 11 Legalistic
- 14 Closed
- 15 Stores
- 17 Missionary
- 20 Covenant
- 21 Thai
- 22 Trade-off
- 23 Eden

### Down

- 1 Conflict
- 2 Religion
- 4 Arrest
- 5 Affliction
- 6 Iona
- 7 Eddy
- 10 Allegiance
- 12 Preached
- 13 Assyrian
- 16 A son of
- 18 Scot
- 19 DVLA