

# The st thomas' story

1 August 2021

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We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday, for Communion in church and online. Details at end of notice sheet for St Thomas' Online. Please book early.

Following the service there will be a Zoom meeting chat. Details to join Zoom meetings can be found in Pastoral letter. Click on the link in [blue writing](#).

Please see Pastoral letter 60 for zoom meeting ID and passcodes.

Please see church calendar on the website for further information.

[www.saintthomas.org.uk](http://www.saintthomas.org.uk)

## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

e: [david@stt.church](mailto:david@stt.church)

Day off: Friday

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

e: [phil@stt.church](mailto:phil@stt.church)

Part furloughed

**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: [churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk)

**Church Coordinators:**

Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
9.30am – 12.00pm.

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: [churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk)

 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

**Vestry Secretary:** Kathleen Demircan

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: [churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk)

Please book for in-person at services as early as possible. We can take bookings two weeks in advance. Please email the church office. **Please note the office is CLOSED on Mon 9<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> August. Please book for Sunday's service on 15<sup>th</sup> August by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August before 11am. Thank you.**

**WHATSAPP PRAYER GROUP:** This is an invitation to all of the St Thomas' family to join a new WhatsApp Prayer Group. This will run alongside the rest of the Prayer Ministry and will be primarily for quick prayer requests for friends and family. It is not the intention that there will be a lot of 'chat' or messaging within the group. Anyone wishing to respond to any prayer request will be encouraged to respond directly to the individual concerned.

The group's administrators will be Linda Henderson and Anne Grant. For more information, please contact either of us. If you would like to be part of this group please let Linda know, on 07891 059233.

If you would prefer to have prayer ministry by Zoom or Skype, or by phone, please contact the ministry team on [sttsprayer@gmail.com](mailto:sttsprayer@gmail.com) you can also contact us on this email if you would simply like the ministry team to pray about something; for instance, if someone in your family is ill.

### **Coming Out of Lockdown – Legal Requirements**

We are now at level 0 it has been great to gather for worship together on Sundays. However, we are still taking precautions to keep everyone safe –

- We are limited in how many can be present in our building
- We must maintain social distancing of 2m
- We must ensure that surfaces are regularly sanitised
- Congregational singing is permitted behind a mask
- The law says we must require people to wear masks

We remain hopeful that as we go through summer, some or all of these restrictions will be lifted. For now, they remain law and we must follow them, or

risk intervention by the authorities. If we had an outbreak focussed on St T's, we would run the risk of our in-person worship being stopped. It is therefore essential that we abide by the regulations as best we can, believing that they will help keep everyone safe and confident to worship with us.

A few weeks ago, a visitor to the congregation wore a lanyard indicating that they were exempt from wearing a mask. That was a helpful indicator and put others at ease, so we ask that those who can't wear masks do the same. It helps others who worry about this and means that awkward questions are avoided! Please go to <http://exempt.scot/> to find out more.

**St Thomas' World Concern:** If you have a member log-in for the St Thomas' Church website, you will now be able to find monthly prayer updates from our mission partners and other mission and international news for prayer. Click on "updates" on the World Concern menu. If you don't have a log-in and would like one, please contact the office.

**Volunteers:** While we recognise that many among us need not to be too tied to volunteering duties, we should also be aware that will make restarting some of our ministries before the summer quite tricky. One example is the 'F.A.S.T. Club' which was piloted at Christmas time. It might be that we need to take our time to focus on putting together a strong programme and team for holiday club, **9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August**, which might then serve as a launch pad for the F.A.S.T. Club. I encourage you to prayerfully consider through the summer how to re-engage, how to serve, and how to give of your time. Many of us have had a year off serving at St Ts'. Once we have enjoyed the returning freedoms, we will all need to work together to help rebuild our fellowship, perhaps in new ways.

Thank you to the **Gardening Team** for all their hard work. Maintaining the gardens, cutting the grass and hedges. Thank you to Rose for the flowers in the planters at the front of the church. All very much appreciated. *Thankyou.*

## **St Thomas' Church Online**

**Sunday 1 August 2021**

to

**Sunday 8 August 2021**

Sunday worship and some other events are available online at:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

<https://www.twitter.com/StThomasEdin>

### **Sunday 1 August**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship – Summer Fruit – Kindness, David McCarthy is preaching.**

**Post Worship Chat -“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.**

**@ 6.30pm – 7.30pm “Zoom” Prayer Base**

### **Wednesday 4 August**

**No Rooted Bible Study – meet on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August.**

### **Thursday 5 August**

**@ 10am-11am - ‘Zoom’ Coffee Online - meeting details in Pastoral letter.**

**@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer on Facebook**

### **Sunday 8 August**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship – Summer Fruit – Goodness, David McCarthy.**

**Post-Worship Chat**

**“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.**

# for our prayer

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Pray for **Stuart and Jenny Robertson** following Stuart's stroke a few weeks ago. Stuart was curate at St Ts' from 1978 to 1981.

Pray for the **mother of Rose** (who cleans the church buildings for us) who is unwell.

Pray for the **Care Van Team** as they take help to homeless people on Sunday evening – for protection and fruitful conversation.

Pray too for the plans for a **Holiday Club** in a few weeks' time – pray that more young people will sign up over the next week.

Pray for **Angela Benzies' mother**, who is in hospital in Belfast, and for Angela as she offers care and support to the family.

For **David Harvey**, who continues to suffer from a very painful damaged shoulder – for healing and patience.

For **NHS workers** as numbers of infections seem to be going down – pray that the number of hospitalised people does not go up.

Remember **countries which have suffered from flooding in recent weeks – Germany, Belgium, Holland, China, & India**. Pray for world governments as they consider the effects of climate change: that they will make wise choices which will help all nations to change where necessary.

Pray for **opportunities for all of us** to show kindness of God and to share the Good News of Jesus with others this week.