

The st thomas' story

29 August 2021

We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday, in church and online. Details in the notice sheet for St Thomas' Online. **For in person, please email the office for Track & Trace purposes.**

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 for zoom meeting ID and passcodes.

Please see church calendar on the website for further information.

www.saintthomas.org.uk

staff and contacts

Rector: Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

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Day off: Friday

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

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Day off: Monday

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

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Church Coordinator:

Rosemary Harvey

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

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 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

Treasurer: Miller Bogie

ssthomastreasurer@yahoo.com

Vestry Secretary: Kathleen Demircan

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

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 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.

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.

If you would like to give to St Thomas's church or would like any financial information regarding the church, please contact **Miller Bogie** via email.

stthomastreasurer@yahoo.com *Thank you.*

St Thomas' Church Online

Sunday 29 August 2021

to

Sunday 5 September 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 29 August

@ 10.30am Online Worship – Summer Fruit – self-control, Thorsten Prill is preaching.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer

Tuesday 31 August

@ 12pm – Midday prayer on Facebook

Wednesday 1 September

@ 4pm Rooted Bible Study – details in pastoral letter.

Thursday 2 September

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

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer on Facebook

Sunday 5 September

@ 10.30am Online Worship

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer

for our prayer

Let's pray for **the evacuation efforts in Afghanistan** as the airlift comes to an end:

- *That all those who want to leave are able to do so*
- *That safe places are found for Afghans who leave where they may thrive*
- *That those who cannot leave are treated honourably and that the new government rules with mercy and with care for all the many different people groups of their land*
- *That Christians are not persecuted and that world governments will make every effort to support them in their freedom of belief*

Pray for those who will be **affected by the removal of the extra £20 per week Universal Credit payment** due on 6 October. Pray that our governments and all of us will have compassion on the most vulnerable in these difficult days.

Alastair Brown writes: *I shall be travelling to Kazakhstan on 6 September and there until 11 September as one of a team of independent experts appointed by the Group of States against Corruption ("GRECO"), which Kazakhstan has recently joined, as part of the process of mutual evaluation of the anti-corruption law and practice of member states against the internationally agreed standards which they have, by joining GRECO, agreed to accept. The team will consist of four people (one from Portugal, one from Lithuania, one from Romania, and me) supported by two members of the GRECO Secretariat.*

In preparation for the visit, we have been studying materials about Kazakhstan's response to corruption and, during the visit, we will be exploring issues which arise out of that in meetings with Government ministers and officials, judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defence lawyers, and representatives of civil society (especially the anti-corruption NGO Transparency International). My particular responsibilities will be in relation to money laundering, confiscation of the proceeds of corruption, and the connection between corruption and organised crime. After the country visit, we will collaborate on the preparation of a report with recommendations. We will present that in draft early next year at a plenary meeting of the 50 member states of GRECO. Once the recommendations are finalised and adopted by that plenary meeting, the member state under evaluation has a treaty obligation to implement them.

It should be emphasised that this is a process of mutual evaluation by equals. The UK has been evaluated on 5 occasions.

Prayer points:

Smooth travel – I have to transit through Frankfurt and satisfy the COVID related requirements of both the EU and Kazakhstan, including a PCR test to be taken within 72 hours before arrival in Kazakhstan and which I also need to be allowed to fly to Frankfurt. My appointment is 62 hours before I'm due to reach Kazakhstan and 48 hours before I'm due to board the flight to Frankfurt. The provider "aims" to deliver results "normally" within 48 hours. The window feels a little tight. I need another test before I fly home (to satisfy Germany) and another one 2 days after return (to satisfy the UK).

Good relations within the team – This is usually not a problem; but occasionally someone is difficult. Since we have to work closely together all week and produce a joint report, it helps if we can make relationships work. Wisdom and sensitivity – Kazakhstan is heading in the right direction but still has significant problems. We need to make the visit helpful to them. Eastern European countries tend to be a bit defensive when confronted with western Europeans telling them what to do. We need to get alongside them and show respect.

Please continue to pray for **Mandy and Bishop Andy Lines**. Andy writes: *Following a dental visit and a routine blood test with our general practitioner, Mandy has been diagnosed with Myeloma - a blood cancer that is treatable but not curable; there has been a battery of tests at two London hospitals, and there is still considerable uncertainty as to type, extent, and treatment. We are currently self-isolating and on Friday Mandy goes for a second of three biopsies, this time on a lesion on her jaw to ascertain whether this is linked to the Myeloma. Whatever transpires she will need to start treatment which will include chemo/ radiotherapy & eventually stem cell transplant, all over next 4-6 months. So, we are just trying to process what it is all going to mean: changing plans and altered dates for moving, along with the issue of what to communicate and to whom. Strangely, Mandy feels well but knows that the treatment will change that.*

F@ST Club is scheduled to begin again this afternoon (27 August). Pray for the team as they prepare and that we see a good number of young people come along.

Pray for **David McCarthy** as he speaks at **Westhill Community Church**, Aberdeen this Sunday – for safe travel & mutual encouragement and effective preaching.

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.