

The st thomas' story

1 May 2022

We worship at 10.30am service, in church and online.

At 12pm - 1662 Communion service.

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

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Day off: Friday

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

Phil Taylor

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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

stthomastreasurer@yahoo.com

Vestry Secretary: Kathleen Demircan

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Coffee Plus – will not meet on Thursday 5th May, due to the election.

Gardening at St Thomas: The gardening group is quite small at the moment and we would like to maintain a beautiful and welcoming way to the front door of the church. If you have an hour or two on the first Saturday of the month please come and join us or contact Margaret Mitchell. We next meet on Saturday 7 May from 10.00 to 12.00.

Seeking Accommodation: Fiona Campbell writes,

'My cousin's young son will be studying in Edinburgh after the summer, and he hopes to find lodgings for the first term only. My cousin is a pastor, so would naturally prefer their son to stay with a Christian family, if possible. Apparently, student accommodation will be available after the new year. Ben is 18, and will be studying at The Academy of Music and Sound in Leith. Would anyone be interested in a paying lodger, from late August until late December?'

Contact Fiona for more information.

Sunday 1 May 2022

to

Sunday 8 May 2022

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 May

@ 10.30am Service – David McCarthy is preaching.

@ 12pm – 1662 Communion service.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7.30pm, Prayer Base, meet at St. Thomas’ Church.

Monday 2 May

@ 4pm-5.30pm – ‘Rooted’, ‘Zoom’ Bible study.

Wednesday 4 May

@1.30pm-3pm – ‘Rooted’ - meet in person.

@ 9.30pm-9.45pm – Night Prayers – online, details in the Pastoral letter.

Thursday 5 May

No - Coffee Plus – meet again on 12th May.

Sunday 8 May

@ 10.30am All Age service, Phil Taylor is preaching.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer Base

for our prayer

Give thanks for the **Holiday Club** and pray that it will bear fruit among those who came.

Pray for **our Vestry and Trustees** as they meet on Monday 2 May (*postponed from last week*) — for discernment & wisdom as they consider matters both practical and spiritual!

On Thursday 5 May, our hall is being used as Polling Station for the local council elections:

Pray for those staffing and visiting the building — that they will see and hear something of God's love for them.

Pray for Rosemary Harvey who will be at work in the office that morning.

Pray for all those offering themselves as candidates.

That those elected will serve with care, integrity, and diligence.

Give thanks that the trustees of **TOR Christian Foundation** have been led to support our proposal to appoint a **Chaplain for Older People** role. Pray as we seek the best person to fill this role. Pray for wisdom as we discern how to best fill this role.

World Concern: 30 Days of Prayer for The Muslim World — Ramadan: 2 April to 2 May

You are invited to join up to 1 million people, all over the world, in more than 40 languages to pray for Muslims during Ramadan. Here is a link to PDF of a Prayer Guide: [30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World \(30daysprayer.com\)](https://www.30daysprayer.com)

There are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world and a good majority of them remain unreached by the Gospel. The focus this year is on some forgotten groups and returning to previously prayed for groups to celebrate what God has done in response.

The Ukraine & Russia: For peace! For Western Governments as they determine how to respond and support. For those thousands of displaced people coming to the UK – for a warm welcome.

And for all refugees - Welcome Churches writes:

We are saddened to share that the **Nationality and Borders Bill was voted into law on Wednesday 27 April**. This Bill discriminates against asylum seekers based on how they arrived in the country, criminalising those who may have arrived in the UK by means deemed as illegitimate.

This is very unfair for people who risk their lives in order to find sanctuary in the UK. As for many of these people, there are no legal routes or choices. This Bill means that **asylum seekers could face years in prison**, and those separated from their families such as women and children, **would also be prevented from reuniting with their loved ones in the UK.**

Welcome Churches' vision is for every refugee in the UK to be welcomed by the local church. The outpouring of welcome, compassion and support that has been shown to the people of Ukraine in recent months shows that the British public and **the UK Church are ready to offer a welcome to new neighbours in need.**

We do not distinguish by nationality or route taken to arrive into the UK. This has been evident in the way the UK Church has responded to global crises over the last 12 months. Our hearts and doors have been opened to people from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong. Including those who are continuing to seek safety coming from Syria, Iran, Eritrea, Albania, Iraq and many more countries. **We are proud that we see the UK Church living out Matthew 25:35 and Welcoming the Stranger.**

A Prayer

Our God is a God of justice, compassion, and mercy, and He is the Prince of Peace.

Pray that **justice** will roll down like a river as people stand up to be a voice for refugees and asylum seekers.

Pray that the people of the UK will show **compassion** to refugees and asylum seekers.

Pray that God intervenes, and shows **mercy** to those who are desperately seeking refuge.

Pray for God to bring **peace** upon the nations of the world, that wars and violence will cease.

For **members of the Westminster parliament** — further incidents of sexism and allegations of abuse have been made in recent weeks. Pray for renewed integrity, clear leadership, and repentance.

Pray for:

All those struggling with illness, especially those who have Covid. Remember those serving in the NHS as they face continued pressure.

Alison & Stephen Carter — as they recover from Covid

Fiona & Ian Cumming — for the Lord's comfort in the midst of illness

Wilma Finlayson — for comfort and the Lord's peace

David Harvey — whose struggle with pain from his damaged shoulder is ongoing.

Pray for **Mandy Lines** (wife of our bishop, **Andy**) — for protection from infection following the stem cell transplant.

Kathleen Demircan — for a full recovery following a small stroke.

David McCarthy — give thanks for healing and patience as he continues to recover from shingles.

Phil Taylor as he takes time off this week

For Recovery from Sickness

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weakness may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for **Westhill Community Church** in Aberdeenshire as they vote this week:

- They are very close to getting a final agreement with the diocese over property — pray this will happen soon!
- The church is voting on 4 May on a proposal from the new SCIO (*Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation*) Vestry to affiliate with the Anglican Convocation in Europe (ACE).
- The Vestry and the Elders are united on this, but there is some discontent amongst some church members

Please pray that there will be a wonderful majority in favour of joining us in ACE.

Pray also for **Andy & Helen Bookless** who lead **The Church of the Living Hope** (Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire) as that church also considers joining ACE.

Pray for the **ACE Synod meeting at St Silas, Glasgow 6-7 May**. Pray for all those gathering from England, Scotland and Wales, that we will have good fellowship, clarity in decision-making and that we will be obedient to the Lord's leading.