

# The st thomas' story



8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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## today's story @ 10.30am

**Welcome** to our morning service on the second Sunday of Advent. Thorsten Prill will preach and David McCarthy will lead the service - "Bearing Christmas Hope: Ruth & Naomi – Deep Abiding Friendships" Ruth 1: 1 - 22.

**Lighthouse** (Sunday School) groups meet as follows: **Creche** (0-3yrs) The Creche Room downstairs is available throughout the service with a live audio and video feed; **Sparklers** (3yrs - P2) meet downstairs in the Crypt; **Spotlight** (P3-P6) meets in the lower Lennon Rooms; and, **Fusion** (P7-S3) will meet in Upper Lennon rooms.

Our **Prayer Team** is available, by the pulpit steps, at the end of the service. Please come forward for prayer, either for yourself or for others. Someone will be pleased to pray with you or for you.

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## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy  
T: 0131 467 0660 M: 0741 123 6433  
E: david@saintthomas.org.uk  
Day off: Friday

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**  
Phil Taylor  
T: 0131 316 4292  
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Day off: Monday

**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey c/o  
T: 0131 316 4292 (Church Office)  
E: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**Church Coordinators:**  
Monday – Tuesday: Rosemary Harvey  
Wednesday – Friday: Jane Ross  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9.30 – 12.30  
T: 0131 316 4292 (Church Office)  
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W: saintthomas.org.uk

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 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

**Vestry Secretary:** Morag Bryce c/o  
T: 0131 316 4292 (Church Office)  
E: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**For items to be in next Sunday's st thomas' story, please contact the office by 10 am Thursday**

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St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045  
| 75 – 79 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8LJ | 0131 316 4292 | www.saintthomas.org.uk |

# events calendar

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- TODAY**      **Embrace service at 4.45pm. Julie Fairhurst** is leading. "Jesus"  
**Sunday**      John 3: 1 - 4
- The finance figures for October 2019** are available from the table at the back of church. If you have any comments or queries, please discuss with Agnes Murray
- Monday**      **Collecting prayer requests**, offering angels as gifts and placing of second angels around the area. Please join us at 6.00pm.
- Tuesday**      **Mums and Tots:** meet this Tuesday in the Gyle Hall at 10.00am. New members are most welcome. Please speak to Hilary Robinson for further details.
- Hustings at St Thomas' Church at 7.30pm**
- Wednesday**      **The Thanksgiving service** for Joan Wright's husband Charlie will be at **11am on Wednesday 11th December** in Kirkliston Parish Church.
- Rooted – no meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** but will meet on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm – 3.30pm in Creche room. Contact Kerstin Prill 07849716265 or Alison Bogie 0771 957 0476.
- Thursday**      **Christmas Lunch:** will be held in the Main Hall **12 noon for 12.30pm**. Tickets, £5, will be available from Sheila Nicol today.
- Isobel Laing's funeral** is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 1.00pm at Mortonhall Crematorium.
- A BIG thank you** to everyone who donated a shoe box for Blythswood Care. They are much appreciated and will bring joy to those who have so little.
- Saturday**      **Pop Up Choir for Christmas** meets in the Sanctuary 10.00am - 11.00am. Please contact David Harvey if interested.
- Further ahead**      **Programme Term cards** for January to April are available on table at back of church

**An update from the Vestry on work done following the 7<sup>th</sup> September congregational meeting and separate insert on planned Church Weekend Away next year are available on the table at back of church.**

# other information

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Invitations for Christmas services were delivered to local homes this past week.

We will pick up prayer requests this week on a second visit.

Also, this year, Fiona Campbell has been co-ordinating an angel “yarn-bombing” campaign, where small knitted angels will appear randomly around the area. Last time this was done it created something of a buzz in the area. It will be accompanied by a social media campaign and link for sharing - search for “Angels of Corstorphine” on Facebook! Would you please help?



Here's the plan:

**Monday 9th Dec 6.00 -8.00pm:** Visiting homes, picking up prayer requests and offering gift of an “Angel of Corstorphine”. Placing of angels around area.

**Additional evenings for possible visits:**

**Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December 6.00-7.00pm**

Please let us know if you will help by signing up at the back of church.

**World Concern Christmas Project:** This Advent our World Concern group is looking to support the work of the Vive Foundation in Colombia. Fiona Christie worked for Vive with Latin Link. Vive trains churches to run a Children's Club and produces Bible-teaching materials for these “Funky Frog Clubs”. Finances for this vital work are quite tight at present so we thought we would collect money during Advent to support the Funky Frog. An envelope is available on table at back of church for any donation you might care to give ... just pop it in the offering bag during December.

**A Large Charity Christmas Card** can be found on table at back of church.

Anyone can sign it instead of sending individual cards to church members.

Donations given will go to the food bank at Corstorphine Community Church.

**One of our members is in need of a car**, especially to help them get to work.

Resources are tight. If you know of a car that might be available or you can help in some way, please talk to David McCarthy at [david@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:david@saintthomas.org.uk) or 07411 236433



**Today's flowers were donated by Carol McKean  
and arranged by a member of the flower team**



# for our prayers

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**Please pray for:**

**For the nation as we vote in the General Election on Thursday** – give thanks that we have the democratic freedom to elect our members of parliament. Pray that those elected will prove to be mindful of the Lord's ways and remember that they are ultimately accountable to Him.

**For the Hustings at St Thomas'** on Tuesday evening – that many will come to hear the candidates and that those attending will be conduct themselves in a respectful way. Please pray for Dave McCarthy as he chairs this hustings and another one in West Linton on Monday evening.

**Give thanks for the positive responses** to the knitted Angels of Corstorphine – pray that they will be used to make people think a little more about the meaning of Christmas. Pray for the visits to local homes tomorrow and possibly other evenings. That gifts will be received and prayer requests made. Pray for good conversations and protection for those knocking on doors.

**Remember the family and friends of Joan Wright** as they give thanks for her husband Charlie's life on Wednesday. Pray too for **Gerda Wright's family and friends** as they inter her ashes on Wednesday lunchtime.

**Bruce and Sue** will be fulfilling a chaplaincy role on a Christmas / New Year Cruise round Australia for the Fred Olsen Line. While it's a voluntary position, there is a full daily pastoral ministry to the passengers with a requirement to be in clerical attire whenever on board, and there are daily Services to lead. There's some ministry to crew, only when requested. Pray for varied contacts, conversations and ministries with passengers; and the Services theme "Journeying with St Luke (chapters 1-3) to the Nativity and Jesus' growth towards the start of his redeeming ministry" .... that journeying with Jesus becomes a path of faith to find and embrace.

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The **st thomas' story** and hymn-books are **available in large print**.

We also have a **hearing loop system** installed.



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