

The st thomas' story



22nd December 2019

today's story @ 10.30am Service



Welcome to our café church service, on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Phil Taylor is leading and the theme is Christmas.

Carols by Candlelight at 5pm. Tea/ Coffee will be served with mince pies after the service in the Main Hall. You are welcome to take a Corstorphine angel from the Christmas tree after the service.

Christmas Eve Watchnight service at 11.15pm

Christmas Day Family service at 10.30am

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
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Day off: Monday

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey c/o
T: 0131 316 4292 (Church Office)
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Church Coordinators:
Rosemary Harvey and Jane Ross
Office Hours: **The office is closed till Tuesday 7th January 2020**
T: 0131 316 4292 (Church Office)
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W: saintthomas.org.uk
🐦 @StThomasEdin
📘 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

Vestry Secretary: Morag Bryce c/o
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There is no notice sheet till Sunday 12th January 2020. Contact David for urgent notices.



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

- TODAY** **Urgent Notice**
Sunday **The area between the north façade of the main entrance and the main hall fire escape is strictly out of bounds. The path has been roped off. This is until further notice.**
- PLEASE REMEMBER TO COLLECT CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM CORRIDOR PIGEON HOLES**
- The finance figures for November 2019** are available from the table at the back of church.
- Care Van Team** (Mark, Gavin, Hugh, Jackie and Ludovic) will be taking hot drinks, food and clothing out to homeless tonight.
- Tuesday** **Toddler Group not meeting** but will start back on 14th January. Please speak to Hilary Robinson for further details.
- Christmas Eve Watchnight service** at 11.15pm
- Wednesday** **Christmas Day Family service** at 10.30am
- Bible Reading 'Rooted' group** will not meet for the next 2 weeks and will start again on the 8th Jan 2020.
- Thursday** **No Coffee Plus meeting this week.** Meetings start back 16th January at 10am.
- Further ahead** **Programme Term cards** for January to April 2020 are available on table at back of church

Sunday 29th December morning service at 10.30am

We Need Your Help! – Saturday 4th January 10am – 3pm

It's time for the annual deep clean of all three kitchens. If you are able to help even just for a short time, please let Philip Busby or Rosemary Harvey know. A snack will be provided. Please come along and help out. Thank you.



The office will be closed until Tuesday 7th January 2020. For any urgent notices or pastoral issues contact David McCarthy.

other information

World Concern Christmas Project: This Advent our World Concern group is supporting 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 "Funky Frog Clubs". Finances for this vital work are tight at present so we will 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. £55.50 was raised for the Food Bank at Corstorphine Community Church.

Bruce and Sue will be fulfilling a chaplaincy role on a Christmas / New Year Cruise round Australia. It's a voluntary position, with a full daily pastoral ministry to the passengers and daily services to lead. Small ministry to crew, when requested. Pray for varied contacts, conversations and ministries with passengers; and for the services: that journeying with Jesus becomes a path of faith to find and embrace.

Flower rota: Each week flowers are placed in church. Following the Sunday service the flowers are then divided into bunches and given to people who are housebound, in care homes, ill, recently bereaved or marking the anniversary of a loved one, or as a thank you or to mark a celebration.... This is much appreciated by those who receive them.

The flower rota sheets for 2020 are on the corridor notice board. Please sign up for a week on which you would like to pay for or provide the flowers and indicate with a tick in the checkbox if you would also like someone from the flower team to arrange them for you. Thank you for your help.

Who could have imagined that the humble estate of a stable would be the doorway through which God's transforming kingdom would arrive? It's all about Jesus!



**Thank you to the Flower Team and friends
who decorated the church for Christmas**



for our prayers

Christmas services - Phil Taylor on Sunday morning, Dave McCarthy on Sunday evening and next week. Pray those who visit us hear the Good News.

Pray for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time - those who loved ones have passed away, are in care, estranged from family members and those who find the darkness of this time of year unbearable, that the light of Christ would come to them, bringing peace and comfort.

Pray for those who are away over Christmas - for safe travel and joyful time with family and friends.

Pray for those who will get a break from work in the next few weeks - for good rest and refreshment.

Catherine Murray is in hospital (Ward 207 at the Royal Infirmary) - pray for healing and peace for her.

Pray for 2020 as we begin to articulate fresh vision for the coming years - for discernment, clarity and a sense of what the Lord is calling us to be.

For Damian who is struggling to cope with a difficult situation at his work.

For the Care Van Team going out tonight.

For the nation:

For the new government at Westminster - pray especially for Boris Johnson that his path will lead him to meet many believers and that he will be met by the Lord in powerful ways. Pray that the transformation he hopes for will protect the weakest and least in our nation. Pray for humility on the part of all those who represent us on councils, at Holyrood and Westminster



The **st thomas' story** and hymn-books are **available in large print**.
We also have a **hearing loop system** installed.



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