

Friday 29 May 2020

Dear Friends,

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, *'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.'*

John 15: 26-27

This Sunday is Pentecost. We remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the believers in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and our need for forgiveness; the Holy Spirit comforts us in our troubles; the Holy Spirit produces good fruit in us and gives us gifts with which to serve Him; the Holy Spirit empowers us and helps us to testify to what the Father has done through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised His followers that the Spirit would come to help them and so it was that at a particular Pentecost festival, the Holy Spirit came, three thousand came to faith and were baptised and the Church was empowered for her ministry. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. We need Him. We need Him as a Church, and we need Him as individuals right now.

This Pentecost, after the long haul of these past ten weeks in social distancing, I am more conscious of that than ever before. As Saint Augustine said, *"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."*

We are in a period of lament and loss, but we are not without hope and we are not alone. Come, Holy Spirit!

Church News

FOODBANK

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the request from the Corstorphine Community Centre for donations of food, toiletries and cleaning products to help support local families who are struggling at this time. This is an 'emergency food bank' that provides one-off assistance (usually within 24 hrs of a request) on a self-referred basis, and which complements the work of

7 June Restore & Renew Us? – Lamentations 5

Online Worship, Gathering and Communications

Please read beyond my signature at the bottom of this letter for details of our online gatherings this week.

We continue to use Facebook Live for much of our online presence. A reminder that you do not need a Facebook account to participate in our live worship times. You simply need to go to <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin> and look for a red symbol which says 'Live'.

Online worship is also available live on our YouTube Channel (please subscribe!) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PgBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

We are also streaming to <https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin> if you want to try something different!

Most days during the week, I publish a short video 'Thought for the Day' during our (early!) morning exercise. These are available on the St Thomas' Facebook Page & Group.

Some serious work has been going on to enhance our website. This is ongoing but please do visit <https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>. Thanks to Angela Benzies for all of her continued effort on this. Angela is seeking to build a bank of photographs to be used online. Please contact her at angelabenzies@gmail.com if you can help with this.

Our Twitter account has also been reactivated. Search for @StThomasEdin.

If you are interested in taking part in Online Worship on Sundays either with reading or praying, please let us know. You'll have to be able to make an audio recording of your reading or intercessions in advance and then send the file to me electronically.

We remain thankful for all the work the musicians and technical people are putting in to making videos of the worship songs for Sunday. We are building up quite a library of lyric videos. Please keep all those involved in this wonderful ministry in prayer.

If you have prayer concerns or needs, please let me have them by email, text or message. You continue in my thoughts and prayers. Please continue to hold Ali and me in yours.

All love In Christ,



St Thomas' Church Online Week Beginning 31 May 2020

Online Worship & Gathering

All worship events are available online at:

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

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

<https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin>

Sunday 31 May

Online Worship @ 10.30am - Helplessness & Hope – Lamentations 4

Monday 1 June

@12pm – Midday Prayer

Tuesday 2 June

@9.30pm Night Prayer

Wednesday 3 June

@12pm Midday Prayer

@2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study

Contact Kerstin Prill for details on how to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

Thursday 4 June

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online

See church office email for details on how to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

@9.30pm – Night Prayer