

# The st thomas' story



20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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**We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday** at St Thomas' with limited numbers in Congregation. Please book by email or phone to attend. **You can continue to access the service using online resources.** 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 check dates and times for **Midday and Night Prayers** for next week.

A short video '**Thought for the Day**' (recorded by David McCarthy) will be available on Facebook Monday to Thursday morning.

**The church is open for Prayer and Reflection on Monday & Wednesday, 10am – 12noon.**

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## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 467 0660 M: 0741 123 6433

e: david@sst.church

Day off: Friday

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

e: phil@saintthomas.org.uk

Day off: Monday

**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**Church Coordinators:**

Jane Ross & Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday &

Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

**Vestry Secretary:** Kathleen Demircan

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

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

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St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045  
| 75 – 79 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8LJ | 0131 285 8782 | [www.saintthomas.org.uk](http://www.saintthomas.org.uk) |

**It has been a pleasure to welcome you back to our physical Sunday gatherings.** We are adhering to the government regulations regarding social distancing and hygiene during the service. There are requirements we need to meet as we resume meeting together. Please be patient with us and be assured that the reopening team is working hard to enable us to regather in all of our buildings as soon and as safely as possible.

Please telephone or email the church office to tell us you are coming. You must do this **by 9am on the Friday before**. Initially our capacity is limited. Following the latest Scottish Government guidance it is mandatory to wear a face-covering in a place of worship. This means that you should wear a face covering throughout our time together, unless you have a medical condition, disability or other reason which exempts you from this restriction.

Contact us 0131 285 8782 if you are not on our email list but would like more information or a copy of the weekly Pastoral letter.

The **Corstorphine Community Centre Emergency Foodbank** are in need of cereal, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, soup mix, stock cubes, rice, tinned fruit, packets/tinned deserts. Sandy Benzies is collecting donations (0131 339 4838) or you can take them in person, to Corstorphine Community Hub, St. John's Road on Wednesday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, please do not leave donations outside as they cannot be used. Thank you.

If you have been knitting **Beanie hats for Mission to Seafarers**, please can you let Sue Gordon know (01506 418 466) or they can be left at the church office during opening hours. If you would like to knit some, patterns are available from the office.

**We have a closed (private) Facebook group (*Embrace*) for St Thomas' people** to share needs, resources and prayers. This is a members group and you need to be invited to join the group so please contact David McCarthy for an invitation to be sent to you. If you have urgent prayer concerns or needs, please contact the office by email or leave a message and we will ring back. Contact details are on front page.

**Phil Taylor and our volunteers** are keeping in contact with all our young people and parents. Contact Phil at [phil@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:phil@saintthomas.org.uk) if he can be of help.

## **NEW CHURCH PHONE NUMBER: 0131 285 8782**

We have installed a new fibre phone line for our improved internet service. We have been unable to port the old number to the new system. Please take note of our new number.

## **Building**

Scaffolding erection to repair brick work at front and rear entrance and both ends of the building has been completed. Work will begin soon. The work may take up to eight weeks to complete.

## **Hall refurbishment**

Forth Flooring replaced all the toilet floors in the Main Hall last week. Painting work has been completed in Main Hall - thanks to the painters who did a great job. Thanks also to Angela Benzies who oversaw the arrangements for this.

## **Our new church website is live, please do visit**

<https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>. On our new site within 'My Area', you can adjust your details, contact preferences and access your rota reminders. If you need help with this please contact the office and help can be arranged.

Top tip: to link easily to our Facebook page, YouTube channel and our Twitter account, just click on the social media icons at the top right of the website main page. Thank you to those who have given feedback on the new website. Please do explore and let the Communication Team know what you think by emailing us [stts.comms@gmail.com](mailto:stts.comms@gmail.com) or contacting Angela Benzies.

**Our Facebook page is now an important resource for communication.** We encourage as many as possible to use it.

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

See message on previous page stating you do not need a Facebook account to access this.

# **St Thomas' Church Online**

## **Week Beginning 20 September 2020**

### **Online Worship & Gathering**

All worship events are available online at:

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

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

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

### **Sunday 20 September**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 1 – Our God Reigns**

**Pre- & Post- Worship Chat:** Zoom details on Pastoral letter

### **Monday 21 September**

**@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)**

### **Tuesday 22 September**

**@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)**

### **Wednesday 23 September**

**@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)**

**@2-3.30pm - Rooted Bible Study**

Contact Kerstin Prill ( [kerstinprill67@gmail.com](mailto:kerstinprill67@gmail.com) ) for how to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

### **Thursday 24 September**

**@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online**

Zoom details on Pastoral letter

**@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)**

# for our prayer

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**Pray for the growing number of area under increased restrictions** – that the people experiencing them would follow the rules and that the rate of infection will drop as a result.

**Pray for all those starting at or returning to university and those who teach them** – pray the restrictions would not spoil the opportunities for learning.

**Pray for the police as they break up house gatherings which fall outside the rules** – for wisdom, careful choice of words and protection.

**Pray for all those in and around the St T's building** – contractors and those using the building for activities. For safety and cooperation.

**Remember Wilma Finlayson in hospital** – for comfort and encouragement.

**Pray for all followers of Jesus** – that we will be confident in sharing His Good News.

**Please pray for our World Concern Partners in Rwanda, Catriona, Steve, Hannah & Rachel Bennett.**

They write:

*'Many, many thanks for all your prayers for our journey. It has been long (60 hours from airport arrival in Edinburgh to driving into our compound in Gahini) but we are finally here. It is a very strange time to travel and the journey was very different to previous ones. But we encountered a few blessings on route, the biggest of which was the private outside space attached to our hotel room where we were confined whilst we waited the 22 hours for our COVID test results; we had no idea about this when we reserved it but it pretty much saved the day for the girls!*

*Rwanda seems to be doing well. Facemasks are compulsory, even in your private vehicle, and several things remain closed but the impression of driving through is very much of a functioning country. We are looking forward to spending the next couple of days unpacking and settling in before being back at work at the end of the week.*