

# The st thomas' story



27<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.

**Please book through the office for Personal Prayer and Reflection time at St Thomas' during the week – mornings only.**

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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@stt.church

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 - 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.

**We have decided to suspend opening the church at set times for prayer and reflection.**

Instead, if you would like to visit, please contact Jane or Rosemary in the office and they will arrange a suitable time for you to do so on a weekday morning.

The **Corstorphine Community Centre Emergency Foodbank** are in need supplies for distribution. Cereal, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, soup mix, stock cubes, rice, tinned fruit, packets/tinned deserts are suitable items. Sandy Benzies can collect 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 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 has sent out a questionnaire which should be completed and returned to him from all families with church connections.** Phil and volunteers are looking at alternative ways of meeting with the young people. If he can be of help please contact Phil at [phil@stt.church](mailto:phil@stt.church) .

**Phil also sent the following prayer request:**

Mark Gilmour, Jennifer Vere and I have met with Zonya Bewick of SU Scotland and Sarah, the teacher who used to work at East Craigs and support the JAFFA group there, to work out how we might be able to resume the group. The head has said no to Zoom meetings with the kids, as Edinburgh Council has a “no Zoom” policy due to security concerns, so Sarah is going back to the head to suggest alternative platforms as a potential way forwards. Can you ask that people pray for the communication with the head, that she would be amenable to our request and that alternative ways of contacting the children is possible so that JAFFA is able to resume in some way. Please also ask for people to pray for wisdom for us as a team to know how best to respond, both to the concerns of the head and to the needs of the children as we seek to find a way to move forwards and share the Gospel with them.

Thanks Phil.

**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 27 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 27 September**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 2 – Amazing People**

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

### **Monday 28 September**

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

**@7.30pm - Vestry** meets as a 'Zoom' meeting.

Use Zoom details from previous meetings

### **Tuesday 29 September**

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

### **Wednesday 30 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 1<sup>st</sup> October**

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

Zoom details on Pastoral letter

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

# for our prayer

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**Please pray for:**

**For students and staff in every university** – for wisdom, safety and the healing of the sick.

**For the police as they seek to enforce the law about gatherings in home** – for tact, winsomeness and protection.

**For governments as they navigate the stormy waters of protecting our health both physically and economically** – for clarity, vision and care for all.

**For NHS staff as they deal with increasing numbers of people infected as well as providing care for those who are unwell with non-Covid-19 related illness** – for resources and rest.

**For all those who are restless, anxious, and fearful** – for peace, God's help and strength.

**Pray for all we know at St Thomas' Church who are in need of healing.** Pray for God's healing hand to touch these people and for their needs to be met. We pray especially for Wilma Finlayson who is still in the WGH and for Bill McGillivray as he undergoes treatment.

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing".*

*Martin Luther King*

