

The st thomas' story



4th October 2020

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.

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 (closed

Thursday 8th Oct) 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.



We have had good numbers at our physical Sunday gatherings.

We are adhering to the government regulations regarding social distancing and hygiene during the service. 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**. Our capacity is limited. Following the 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.

Christmas Shoe box Appeal

Blythswood have asked us if we would once again contribute to the shoe box appeal. They have said that due to the pandemic these boxes are even more vital. Leaflets will be available to pick up from church on Sundays or during office hours. The leaflet gives all the information needed as well as providing the envelope for a donation towards cost of transport which is £3 or more. The filled boxes should be returned to the church office either on a Sunday or during office hours on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. Please return them by Sunday 1st Nov at the latest. Thank you so much for helping us in this work.

The **Corstorphine Community Centre Emergency Foodbank** are still running and in need of supplies. Cereal, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, soup mix, stock cubes, rice, tinned fruit, packets/tinned deserts are suitable items. Sandy Benzie 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE HAD PROBLEMS CONNECTING THROUGH THE FACEBOOK LINK GIVEN ABOVE, THE ADDRESS WAS INCORRECT. PLEASE TRY AGAIN USING THE LINK. APOLOGIES FOR THE MISTAKE. ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS CONTACT THE OFFICE.

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 .

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 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.

St Thomas' 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 or contacting Angela Benzies.

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 4 October 2020

Please note that all 'Zoom' meetings now require participants to enter a passcode. This feature has been added to boost the security and safety of those taking part.

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 4 October

Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 3 – First Things First

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

'Zoom' Prayer Base 6.30pm-7.30pm: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Monday 5 October

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 6 October

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 7 October

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

@2-3.30pm - Rooted Bible Study

Contact Kerstin Prill (kerstinprill67@gmail.com) to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

Thursday 8 October

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

'I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.' Psalm 17:6

Loving Father, please heal those who are sick. We pray especially for Joyce Riley who is very unwell and finding it difficult to cope with pain since change in medication. Wrap your loving arms around both her and Douglas. Pray also for Bill McGillivray, Elizabeth Bennet and Wilma Finalyson. Wilma may get home after a long stay in hospital and needs a full care package arranged for that situation.

Loving Father, guide the leaders of nations.

Loving Father, protect those who protect us - especially those who serve in the emergency services and the NHS. Pray also for pharmacists and pharmacy staff who support all the other services.

Loving Father, inspire those who trust in you to live for, and speak confidently of, You!

Loving Father, watch over our family members and stir their hearts to trust in you.

Loving Father, give us all patience, endurance and a determination to show kindness to all.

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family. So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together.