

# The st thomas' story



11<sup>th</sup> October 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 from the 'Rector Cave'

**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 (closed

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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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) |

## **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.

**‘A Morning Thought’:** Since April, in the early morning four or five times a week, I have been putting short Bible readings on FaceBook. These have been made while Ali and I take our daily walk down to Roseburn. With the darker mornings upon us, it is proving more difficult to produce them, so they will still be happening but a bit later on and from the comfort of the ‘Rector Cave’. If we are still doing them come the spring, we’ll return to the wild format!

**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.

**Thursday 15 October - Central meeting using Zoom.** Details on Pastoral letter for meeting ID and password.

## **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.

**Thank you** from Mark & Elinor Gilmore: Lydia who many have been praying for has tested negative for COVID and is much better

Amanda and Gavin Hamilton have asked for prayer for their son, Jamie.

“Jamie is grateful for the time spent in Scotland. We would value prayer for his safe travel to Ghana and that he finds somewhere suitable to live and settles in well and stays safe.”

**Quiz Night! - Friday 27 November 2020.** We are planning a quiz to be held using ‘Zoom’. Start gathering your team now. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to defeat last year’s winning team. I can’t remember who was in it.....More details to follow.

**NEW RECTORY PHONE NUMBER:** the internet supplier at the rectory has changed. As part of this, it has also meant getting a new landline number. The new number is: **0131 374 3694**

**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.**

### **Harvest Collection for Local Foodbank**

Duncan Whitty, pastor of Corstorphine Community Church writes, *‘It would certainly be a blessing if St Thomas was able to collect long life items for our Basics Bank. Any long-life food ie tinned meat, veg or fruit, pasta, rice, pasta sauce or curry sauce also custard, biscuits, cereal, juice and long life milk would all certainly be used and would be gratefully received’.*

With that in mind from Sunday 18 October to Sunday 25 October, we will express our gratitude to the Lord by making donations that our local Basics Bank can distribute. Please bring donations to the church on those Sundays or by arrangement with the office during the week. Alternatively, if you need a donation picked up from your home, let me know directly and I will do this.

**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](mailto:stts.comms@gmail.com) or contacting Angela Benzies.

# **St Thomas' Church Online**

## **Week Beginning 11 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 11 October**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 3 v 7-13 – Laughing or Crying?**

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

### **Monday 12 October**

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

### **Tuesday 13 October**

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

### **Wednesday 14 October**

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

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

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

### **Thursday 15 October**

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

**@7.30pm – Central Meeting Online:** Zoom details on Pastoral letter

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

# for our prayer

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**Pray for all those working in Scotland's hospitality industry over the next few weeks** – for those on zero hour contracts and casual work who will struggle financially and mentally. Please pray that sufficient provision and care is made for all those affected.

**Pray for David Harvey** who is recovering from a shoulder injury – for pain relief and healing.

**For Bill McGillivray** as he undergoes new further treatment – for renewed strength.

**For Wilma Finlayson** who is waiting for a care package to be put in place to enable her to get home. Wilma is still in ward 73 at the WGH.

**For Jamie Hamilton** who is grateful for the time spent in Scotland. Amanda and Gavin would appreciate prayer for his safe travel to Ghana and that he finds somewhere suitable to live and settles in well and stays safe.

**For Anne Grant suffering with shingles.** She has had great medical care and help from opticians so give thanks for that. Continue to pray for complete healing.

**For all those in care homes** – for loving care and support.

For those whose mental health is suffering through all that is happening – for understanding and hope.

**For the leaders of nations** – that they will listen to wise counsel, make clear decisions and give directions which will get the balance right between caring for our health and the economy.

**For us, the people of God** – that we will be confident in the Lord and bold in making him known.

**Give thanks:**

**For Elinor and Mark Gilmour's Granddaughter** Lydia's negative result for Covid.