

# The st thomas' story



25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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**Remember the clocks go back one hour overnight Saturday to Sunday**

**We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday;** our Harvest service; with limited numbers in Congregation. Please book by email or phone by Friday at 9.00am 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](#).

There will be no **'Thought for the Day'** this week while David and Ali have a few days off. **There will be no online prayer on Monday or Tuesday** this week but will be available on Wednesday and Thursday.

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## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

e: david@sst.church

Day off: Mon, Tues and Wed

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

e: phil@stt.church

Day off: Off all week

**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**Church Coordinators:**

Jane Ross & Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Mon – Fri

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 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.

**David and Ali have a few days off this week. No "Thought for the Day" all week and no online prayer Monday or Tuesday.**

### **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 Sue Gordon.** The Mission to Seafarers chaplain, Revd Tim Tunley, sends a BIG THANK YOU to the Beanie Hat Knitters at St Thomas' Church, for the amazing number of hats he has received this year.

With the coming winter months PLEASE continue knitting as more will now be needed for the crews who are from warmer Eastern climates. These are truly appreciated and are personally given out by the Chaplain when visiting the ships. Patterns are available from Jane in the Church office. Sue Gordon can collect from the Church office or from your house.

*A Strange Unmaking*, the book of Fiona Christie's Colombian blog, is now available to buy as an eBook from Amazon

**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**

### **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, this Sunday and 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.

**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.

**Care Van** David Fairhurst writes: 'We are very low on nearly all clothes in particularly ladies' clothes - sweaters, T shirts jackets, and new underwear. We also need men's trousers with smaller sizes such as 32-inch waist being popular. We have no blankets or sleeping bags left.'

If you can help with any of these items, please leave them at church on a Sunday or weekday mornings.

## **St Thomas' Church Online**

### **Week Beginning 25 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 18 October**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 4 – Hitting the Buffers**

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

#### **Wednesday 21 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 22 October**

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

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

Every year churches across Edinburgh deliver Christmas Hampers to refugees and asylum-seekers across the city. Each hamper costs £40. If you would like to donate a hamper and/or would like to help deliver them or simply would like to know more contact Fiona Christie or the organizers directly at

[hampers@centralchurch.co.uk](mailto:hampers@centralchurch.co.uk) (cc to [natalia@edinburghcitymission.org.uk](mailto:natalia@edinburghcitymission.org.uk)) by 13th NOVEMBER 2020. This is a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action, to welcome and care for the stranger in our midst.

# for our prayer

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Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of all creation, you hold the depths of the earth in your hands.

You are closer to us than the air we breathe.

Fill our souls with your wonderful love and light.

Give us strength and courage to reflect that love and light in the world.

Let us never shrink back from who we are in you or hide our light inside ourselves. Renew in us a sense of joy,

painting the dark shadows around us with your light, your love and your salvation.

Hear us today as we pray for a world too often darkened by sickness, hatred, evil, power and greed.

Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of power and might, your broken world cries out from the depths, a world dominated by the darkness of sickness, anxiety, pain and suffering.

We think of the on-going and deepening conflicts in Syria and Yemen which we hear so little about.

We share the pain and anguish of those who have had to flee from their homes, countries and livelihoods, who risk their lives, desperate for a new start free from fear and war.

May they see your light, feel your strength and power and know the truth of your promise

that we shall not be overcome by the dark shadows of life or the darkness of human nature.

Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of compassion and grace, we share with you our love and concern for people in a dark place today.

We have on our hearts the friends and loved ones of the victims of the economic consequences of the pandemic.

We pray that they will find your strength in the compassion and love of those around them.

We pray for tolerance in our society.

We pray for all who are victims of hate crimes and for those who perpetrate

them.

Let your light shine through the darkness in all that pain and their suffering.  
Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of life, we ask for your healing power  
on those who are enduring pain and illness.

We especially think of Bill, David, Wilma, Theresa, Fiona & Ian  
and all those we name quietly in our hearts.....

We share the grief of people close to us, who've recently lost loved ones.

We remember that as we weep with the grieving,  
we embrace the joy of the new life you give.

We know your everlasting light shines with us,  
in moments of great sadness and great joy.

Within our darkest night, **Let your light shine.**

God of love and hope,

Renew in us a deeper sense of who we are in you.

Help us to be aware of your presence each and every day.

Make us instruments of love and praise.

May our words, actions and lives be living examples  
of your forgiving, healing, life-giving love.

Amen.

**Our church cleaner Rose** has asked for prayer for herself and her family as they sell her Mum's house in Hungary. Rose has travelled to Hungary with her son, Attila and daughter in law, Blessing. Her daughter, Violet is taking care of her Mum; who suffers from Alzheimer's; in Edinburgh. Please pray for all of them over the next month. Pray also for the people of Hungary where the incidence of Covid is high and increasing.