

# The st thomas' story



1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

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**We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday;** 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](#).

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 check dates and times for **Midday and Night Prayers** for next week.

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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. There are no changes while we are in tier 3.

**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.

### **Christmas Shoe box Appeal**

Blythswood have asked us if we would once again contribute to the shoe box appeal. **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 for hats, fingerless gloves and balaclavas are available from the Church office. Sue Gordon can collect finished items 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 can't have our traditional November Quiz Night in the church, but we can do the next best thing, which is to do it on Zoom! How you might ask? Well, here's how it will run.

The date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, beginning at 7.30 pm. To submit a team, please email the following details to me

at [sandy.benzies@btinternet.com](mailto:sandy.benzies@btinternet.com). **Deadline: 26<sup>th</sup> November** · Team name  
· The name of each of your team members. Your team can be composed of

members of your home group, friends, family, neighbours...whoever you like! The only restriction is a maximum of six people per team.

If you want to take part but are not linked with a team then still register with me at the above e-mail and I will put you into a group with others, or into a team that doesn't have its full complement of six people.

There will be 5 rounds with varying themes. Once the questions for each round have been read out you will be put into a breakout room with your other team members to discuss and decide your answers before coming back to the main room for the correct answers. Nominate one team member to mark your answers and then write your team name followed by your score in the Zoom chat at the end of each round (it doesn't need to be the same person each time).

We will have a short comfort/leg-stretch/screen break after round 3.

Dress code: Pyjamas, Costume, Fancy Dress, whatever you like...just make sure you're clothed!! Refreshments: BYO (of course)

Prizes: None, just the glory! (Though I might be able to arrange some chocolate to be picked up at the church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> for the winning team!)

The Zoom link will be sent out to all who register a few days before.

**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**

**Work with young people:** Phil Taylor writes: *"As I am sure you are aware, when coronavirus hit our face to face work with young people stopped. Now, after getting the all clear that we are able to through the Scottish Government's guidelines, we are planning on starting up a new outreach group for young people in school years P4 to P7, focussing particularly on the South Gyle estate. The hope is to be launching properly in January, with taster sessions to happen in December to gauge interest and hopefully gain interest for us to gain a regular group attending."*

*Please pray for this group to succeed. Pray for me as I work through the guidance of the Scottish Government, so that I am able to ensure that we are able to run a safe and fun group. Pray for those who are considering being involved as volunteers. And pray for those we seek to reach out to and invite, that their hearts would be receptive to the invitation and excited to be able to engage with other young people.*

**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.

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.

## **St Thomas' Church Online**

### **Week Beginning 1 November 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 1 November**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 7 – Meet Ezra**

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

**Prayer Base @ 6.30pm:** Zoom details on Pastoral letter

#### **Monday 2 November**

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

#### **Tuesday 3 November**

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

#### **Wednesday 4 November**

**@ 12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook)**

**“Rooted” Bible Study not meeting this week.**

#### **Thursday 5 November**

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

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

# for our prayer

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Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the sick, anxious, and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Let us keep in prayer this week:**

**The people of the United States of America as they cast their votes to elect a President.**

**The displaced people in Syria who have fled war and are now facing an increasingly difficult situation with rising numbers of pandemic sick.**

**The hundreds of thousands people in Namibia who are facing starvation.**

**The NHS staff facing heavy workloads and stress as the numbers of seriously ill people increases.**

**Those whose furlough ended this weekend and who are worried about their job security.**

**All those whose mental health is suffering through isolation and loneliness.**

**Our witness to Jesus among family, friends and the local communities our homes are in.**

**Please pray especially for: Anne Grant; who is still suffering from nerve pain and complications of shingles; Wilma Finlayson, Bill McGillivray, David Harvey; who had staples removed this week but still in a great deal of pain and discomfort.**