

The st thomas' story



8th November 2020

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.

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 Tues – 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.



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 |

We meet at church and online at 10.30am for a shorter act of worship this week. We hope to have some Remembrance hymns prepared by our musicians and a short talk on Ezra 8.

At 11am those in church will watch the ceremony from the Cenotaph on the BBC.

Those at home are invited to watch the ceremony on the BBC too. **Please note that we cannot stream the ceremony for copyright reasons** so you will have to switch from the church streaming to a TV channel.

Church office is closed on Monday morning this week

The four gospels are all about Jesus' life and what he has done. Join us for the **Rooted Bible Study** to discover what Jesus continued to do and is still doing today as we study the book of Acts together. **Please note that the starting time has changed to 4pm.** There will be 15 minutes of informal chatting, Bible study will be from 4.15 – 5.15pm.

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

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**

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 27th November 2020, beginning at 7.30 pm. To submit a team, please email the following details to me

at sandy.benzies@btinternet.com. **Deadline: 26th 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 29th for the winning team!)

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

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. **More volunteers are needed. If you can help contact Phil as soon as possible** 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 or contacting Angela Benzies.

Care Van David Fairhurst writes: *'Thank you for all the items donated. At the moment we have enough clothing apart from SMALL men's trousers/jeans (no bigger than 32" waist) and men's jumpers/sweatshirts'* 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 (cc to 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 8 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 8 November

Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 8 – The God of Small Things.

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

Monday 9 November

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 10 November

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 11 November

@ 12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook)

“Rooted” Bible Study @ 4.15 - 5.15pm - Rooted Bible Study

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

Thursday 12 November

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

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

A prayer of petition for those affected by war

God of justice and peace,
we pray for those who have been injured
or disabled through war.
For those who have lost homes
and security through conflict;
for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;
for those who face danger and take risks for peace;
for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;
for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.

God of encouragement
and Saviour of the despairing,
**comfort those who remember past sacrifices
and guide us in building
a just and peaceful community for all.**

Amen.

A prayer for reconciliation

As one family, we reflect today on the horrors of the past that continue
to haunt humanity and darken our world.

Lord, where pain still overwhelms, bring healing.
Where hearts are still breaking, bring comfort.
Where peoples are still oppressed, bring liberation.
Where communities are still victimised, bring justice.
Where children are still brutalised, bring compassion.
Where lives are still crushed, bring hope.
Where evil is perpetrated, bring repentance.
Where war still devastates, bring peace.

But most of all,
wherever a single voice cries out in the darkness,
bring us to one another,
in the name of the love you bear in your heart for all people,
all nations and all creation.

Amen.

Prayer in a time of hopelessness

We entrust to you, eternal God,
those times when we can see only shadows
and lose sight of the hope to come;
the times when suffering seems so senseless,
life so fragile, war so unstoppable and death so permanent.
Bless us with the assurance that you are in all things,
the tragic and the beautiful,
the nightmare and the dream,
the light and the darkness.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ
the peace of the world, today, tomorrow and forever.
Amen.

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