

The st thomas' story



15th 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 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.



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.

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

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.

Praying Together 'Zoom Central Meeting' is at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 November. Details at the end of this letter.

David & Rosemary Harvey and family would like to thank everyone for all the prayer support following David's shoulder operation. David has started physio this week. Your prayers are very much appreciated. **Thank you.**

Thank you from Sue Gordon.

PLEASE continue knitting as more hats, balaclavas and fingerless gloves are needed for the crews who are from warmer Eastern climates. The Mission to Seafarers chaplain, Revd Tim Tunley, sends a BIG THANK YOU. 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 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.

'The St T's Advent Light Calendar'

The idea is to add some true Light to all the illuminated santas and snowmen we can expect to appear in gardens this Christmas!

1. We'd like 24 homes to set up a tableau using a verse on each day through 1 December until 24 December. The idea is to put this in the most public window of your home, light it up, and display it from your day of choice through the Christmas period. You can put up pictures, build a model, or whatever your creative mind can produce! We want the words and verse reference included please in as big a font as you can manage.

2. When your day goes 'live', please take a photograph and send it to me. We'll then post it on social media and the church website.

3. Please fill in your day here, at the link below. If you intend on taking part, please let us know as soon as possible. If you cannot follow the link, please contact the church office and we will suggest a date and passage to use.

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AjKSjpC9whwNgdBTpLe0W2mTRiRxuw?e=1Xn43I>

Advent & Christmas Idea

During Advent, we are seeking a few people to record a brief video testimony which would say, "Advent fills me with hope and joy because.....". We'd include one testimony every Sunday.

We'd also like lots of people to record a brief video which we would compile to be used for our Christmas Eve worship (details to be confirmed!). We simply want a few sentences on what Christmas means to you and why.

Please let David know if you are willing to share in this way.

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 15 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 15 November

Online Worship @ 10.30am – Ezra 9 – A Confession.

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

Monday 16 November

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 17 November

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 18 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 19 November

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

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

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us

Be with those living in the darkness of illness.

We hold in the light of Your love some known to us who need healing –including David, Bill & Jane.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Be with those in the darkness of life on the streets;

drug-users, alcoholics,

the mentally-ill cast adrift in a world that they cannot cope with.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Be with those in the darkness of war and conflict;

where violence stalks the streets ;

where violence shares the same house.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Be with those in the darkness of despair;

prisoners, refugees, those who are persecuted and oppressed.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.

Be with us;

where there is darkness in us, shed Your light;

where there is love and joy, help us to let them shine out into a dark world.

Let us be Your people of hope and light.

Christ Jesus, Lord of Light, come to us.