

The st thomas' story



15th December 2019

today's story @ 10.30am Communion Service

Welcome to our Communion service on the third Sunday of Advent. Sandy Benzies will preach and David McCarthy will lead the service - "Christmas Hope: Bathsheba – Growing Through Pain" 2 Samuel 11:1 - 27.

Lighthouse (Sunday School) groups meet as follows: **Creche** (0-3yrs) The Creche Room downstairs is available throughout the service with a live audio and video feed; **Sparklers** (3yrs - P2) meet downstairs in the Crypt; **Spotlight** (P3-P6) meets in the lower Lennon Rooms; and, **Fusion** (P7-S3) will meet in Upper Lennon rooms.

Our **Prayer Team** is available, by the pulpit steps, at the end of the service. Please come forward for prayer, either for yourself or for others. Someone will be pleased to pray with you or for you.

staff and contacts

Rector: Rev. David McCarthy
T: 0131 467 0660 M: 0741 123 6433
E: david@saintthomas.org.uk
Day off: Friday

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:
Phil Taylor
T: 0131 316 4292
E: phil@saintthomas.org.uk
Day off: Monday

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey c/o
T: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)
E: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

Church Coordinators:
Monday – Tuesday: Rosemary Harvey
Wednesday – Friday: Jane Ross
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9.30 – 12.30
T: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)
E: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

W: saintthomas.org.uk

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 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

Vestry Secretary: Morag Bryce c/o
T: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)
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For items to be in next Sunday's st thomas' story, please contact the office by 10 am Thursday



St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045
| 75 – 79 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8LJ | 0131 316 4292 | www.saintthomas.org.uk |

events calendar

- TODAY** **REMEMBER TO COLLECT CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM CORRIDOR**
- Sunday** **Sparklers & Spotlight's Christmas Party!** Meet in the Gyle hall.
Young people meet after service to go to Frankie and Benny's for lunch
The finance figures for October 2019 are available from the table at the back of church.
- Monday** **The Acorn coffee morning** is on at St Anne's Church on Monday 16th December at 10.00am
- Tuesday** **Toddler Group not meeting** but will start back on 14th January. Please speak to Hilary Robinson for further details.
- Wednesday** **Rooted** will meet at 2.30pm – 3.30pm in Creche room. Contact Kerstin Prill 07849716265 or Alison Bogie 0771 957 0476.
- Thursday** **No Coffee Plus meeting this week.** Meetings start back 16th January at 10am.
Central Meeting at 7.30pm in the main hall.
- Saturday** **Pop Up Choir for Christmas** meets in the Sanctuary 10.00am - 11.00am. Information from David Harvey.
- Further ahead** **Sunday 22nd – Café Church**, come dressed in a Christmas outfit. A chance to wear your Christmas jumpers!
Sunday 22nd – Carols by Candlelight at 5pm. Tea/ Coffee will be served with mince pies after the service in the Main Hall.
Christmas Eve Watchnight service Tuesday 24th December at 11.15pm
Christmas Day Family service at 10.30am
Programme Term cards for January to April 2020 are available on table at back of church



The office will be closed from Friday 20th December until Tuesday 7th January 2020

other information

World Concern Christmas Project: This Advent our World Concern group is supporting the work of the Vive Foundation in Colombia. Fiona Christie worked for Vive with Latin Link. Vive trains churches to run a Children's Club and produces Bible-teaching materials for "Funky Frog Clubs". Finances for this vital work are tight at present so we will collect money during Advent to support the Funky Frog. An envelope is available on table at back of church for any donation you might care to give ... just pop it in the offering bag during December.

A Large Charity Christmas Card can be found on table at back of church. Anyone can sign it instead of sending individual cards to church members. Donations given will go to the food bank at Corstorphine Community Church.

One of our members is in need of a car, especially to help them get to work. Resources are tight. If you know of a car that might be available or you can help in some way, please talk to David McCarthy at david@saintthomas.org.uk or 07411 236433

We Need Your Help! – Saturday 4th January 10am – 3pm

It's time for the annual deep clean of all three kitchens. If you are able to help even just for a short time, please let Philip Busby or Rosemary Harvey know. A snack will be provided, any offer of help will be very much appreciated. Thanks.

Bruce and Sue will be fulfilling a chaplaincy role on a Christmas / New Year Cruise round Australia. It's a voluntary position, with a full daily pastoral ministry to the passengers and daily services to lead (requirement to be in clerical attire whenever on board). Small ministry to crew, when requested. Pray for varied contacts, conversations and ministries with passengers; and for the services: that journeying with Jesus becomes a path of faith to find and embrace.

A BIG **"THANK YOU"** to all who helped provide the Christmas meal on Thursday. It was a huge success.



**Thank you to the Flower Team and friends
who decorated the church for Christmas**

for our prayers

Give thanks for the invitation delivery/visiting to local homes and the positive response to the “Angels of Corstorphine” – pray that these activities will produce good fruit.

Give thanks for the hustings on Tuesday evening – pray for the new government following the General Election: that it will find ways of working well with other parties, consider the least and the last and that it will realise that its authority comes from the Lord.

Please pray for:

Pray for Joan Wright and family following the passing of Charlie – for continued peace and comfort.

Pray for Fred and Liz Norwood – that Fred’s illness will be diagnosed. Please pray for his healing.

Pray for our World Concern partners, Thorsten and Kerstin Prill as they visit Germany over the Christmas holidays and for **Bruce and Sue Gordon** as they serve in chaplaincy on a cruise ship and visit family in Australia.

Pray for Mark Gilmour and the Manor Grange Care Home ministry team as they lead a Carol service for residents, families and staff on Friday 20th December at 2:15pm. The team had a table at Manor Grange Fair selling handmade items made at Coffee Plus and raised £228 to go towards Vive Kids.

Everlasting God, as we continue to prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for time to be quiet where we can; through prayer and reflection; appreciate the wonder of your love. As we revisit the story of Jesus’ birth through our Advent worship deepen our joy, invigorate our prayers and our praise and help it to challenge the way that we live our lives.



The **st thomas’ story** and hymn-books are **available in large print**.
We also have a **hearing loop system** installed.



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