

The st thomas' story



29th March 2020

St Thomas' will not be meeting in person in the near future for worship services or home groups. **All church-based activities will cease for the time being. All rotas are suspended until further notice.**

We **continue to meet** using online resources and conference calls. It is likely that this situation will last for several months, including over Easter. Our planned outreach events will not now take place.

We will continue to offer worship at 10.30am every Sunday. This will be online, initially using Facebook Live. A link to this from our webpage is available at www.saintthomas.org.uk. This can also be viewed on the blog page <https://www.gadgetvicar.org.uk>

The office is open on a Monday and Friday morning BUT contact in person is not available. Please phone or email and leave a message and we will contact you.

staff and contacts

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

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

Church Coordinators:
Monday: Rosemary Harvey
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
🐦 @StThomasEdin
📘 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh



St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045
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We will contact members with no local family support by phone on a weekly basis. If you need help for shopping or other urgent things please contact the office by email or leave a phone message and we will find a way to help. If you can volunteer to help contact the office.

We know that some people are not keen on using Facebook. David McCarthy is posting links to his Facebook posts on his blog. Go to www.gadgetvicar.org.uk to watch them. Help can be given to open up a Facebook account for use during this time. It can be deleted afterwards.

Rodney Hughes who was a curate at St Thomas' in the mid 1960's has sadly passed away as a result of cancer. Please pray for his family as they grieve at this difficult time.

Online Programme of Meetings and Worship

Sunday 29 March: 10.30am Online Worship @
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Monday 30 March: 12pm Midday Worship @
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Tuesday 31 March: 9.30pm Night Prayer @
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Wednesday 1 April: 12pm Midday Worship@
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Thursday 2 April: 10am Coffee Morning Online
To join Zoom Meeting ·

Contact David McCarthy for details

Thursday 2 April: 9.30pm Night Prayer@
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Friday 3 April: 12pm Midday Prayer@

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Saturday 4 April: 9.30pm Night Prayer@

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>

Other Resources

Regular video updates are posted at <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>
also at my blog, <https://www.gadgetvicar.org.uk>

We are on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/stthomasedin>

Our webpage is <https://www.sainthomas.org.uk>

NHS advice on Covid-19: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Scottish Government on Covid-19: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

UK Government on Covid-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Here's what we will plan to do to be of service in the coming weeks.

1. The church staff will try to make weekly contact with those who we know are not using the internet or social media for communication. Please let us know of needs you are aware of.
2. I am available as a listening ear either by phone or online. The situation we are in is likely to last for some time and the stress for many is likely to increase. Please make sure that each of us takes time to reach out and care for another.
3. We will offer regular prayer and worship online. Details of this week's programme are appended to this letter.
4. Some Home Groups will meet using the 'Zoom' conference calling app. If you need help setting this up, we can assist.
5. We'll also have informal gatherings online for conversation, care and prayer.
6. Our website is being refreshed and will be renewed in order to improve our communications.
7. Our Facebook page is now an important resource for communication. We encourage as many as possible to use it.
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>
8. We also have a closed (private) Facebook group for St Thomas' people to share needs, resources and prayers. You need to be invited to be part of this group – please contact me if you want to be part of it.
9. Phil Taylor and our volunteers are working hard to keep good communications with, and gathering of young people going. Contact Phil at phil@saintthomas.org.uk if he can be of help.
10. We will go on praying for you, those on the front line of helping those afflicted by Covid-19, our leaders and those who need Jesus Christ now more than ever

for our prayer

Pray for Jamie Hamilton, the son of Amanda and Gavin. He is in Cameroon and unable to return to the UK as the borders are closed. Pray that the Foreign and Commonwealth will assist him and other British nationals to get home safely.

Pray for the governments of the UK and Scotland as they seek to implement measures which will protect the vulnerable from the effects of Covid-19 and the economic crisis it has brought.

Pray for those who teach and learn, for parents and young people as they all wrestle with the closure of schools, colleges and universities for most students – for helpful and creative resources to be used. Pray especially for vulnerable children for whom the closure of schools will be most costly.

Pray for those worried about social distancing rules implemented this week might lead to an increase in domestic violence, as people spend more time at home together. Pray that the resources are available to offer help and protection.

Pray for shielding for those who are most vulnerable to the virus – older people and people with illness already.

Pray for those who serve us so wonderfully in the NHS – for help in their efforts to stem the tide of the virus, provision of protective equipment and good rest when they can take it.

Pray that our efforts to meet online and keep in contact by phone will be helpful.

Pray too that as we try to worship and pray together in new ways, that the Gospel will be proclaimed, Jesus glorified and that some will find faith.

Pray for Edinburgh City Mission who are still are continuing to provide all their services and are adding a new Soul Food "grab 'n' go" meal on Tuesdays. They have opened a new Food Storage Centre for Basics Banks drop-offs and anticipate a huge growth in crisis referrals. Pray for those who are lonely and for ECM as they find innovative ways to share faith while socially-distancing.
