

The st thomas' story



5th April 2020 - Palm Sunday



"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!"

St Thomas' are not meeting in person at the moment. **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 some time, including over Easter.

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
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@StThomasEdin
St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh



St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045
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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. .

We have been told of the death of **Joan Graham** at the age of 100. Joan was a member of St Thomas' during the 1940s, 50s and 60s when she lived in Ratho. She then moved to live in St Boswells in the Scottish Borders, where she has been since then.

Holy Week 2020 @ St Thomas' Church Online

Online Worship & Gathering – <https://www.facebook.com/sthomasedin>

Sunday 5 April

10.30am - Palm & Passion Sunday

Some suggested activities:

- *Make your own 'palm' cross out of paper or card.*
- *Families/households: make your own cross out of paper or card, and blu-tack to window*

6.30pm Prayer Base – 'Zoom' Meeting

Bishop Andy Lines will be joining us. To join please contact David McCarthy by email for meeting link

Monday 6 April @ 12pm - Midday Prayer

Tuesday 7 April @ 9.30pm - Night Prayer

Wednesday 8 April @ 7pm - Midday Prayer

Thursday 9 April

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Morning

To join Zoom meeting please contact David McCarthy by email for meeting link

@ 7pm - A Meditation for Maundy Thursday

Friday 10 April @ 12 noon - 1pm - A Meditation for Good Friday

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. If you would like a paper copy of notice sheet sent to you please leave a message at office on 0131 316 4292.
2. David is available as a listening ear either by phone or online. 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 above.
4. Some Home Groups will meet using the 'Zoom' conference calling app. If you need help setting this up, let us know and we can assist.
5. We'll also have informal gatherings online for conversation, care and prayer. Details are on pastoral letter sent out by email.
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 (Embrace) for St Thomas' people to share needs, resources and prayers. You need to be invited to be part of this group – please contact David if you want to join the group.
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 all of 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

Give thanks for:

The safe return of Jamie Hamilton to Edinburgh from Cameroon.

The recovery of Alastair Brown from illness. Keep praying for him and Sue, please.

The gift of internet communication and that so many are able to use it so well so quickly!

Pray for our attempts to reach out in difficult times:

That the Try Praying banner and materials would be helpful to those who pass the church buildings.

That our attempts at communication online would draw new people to the Lord, encourage those who are part of St T's already and be technically competent!

Pray for the NHS as things seem to be getting more difficult:

Give thanks for all those volunteering to help.

Pray for more and better resources.

Ask that carers will be well protected from the virus.

Pray for children, young people and their parents/carers:

For resourcing and safety.

Remember especially those struggling with the lack of transition: from primary to secondary school, from secondary school to work or higher education.

Pray for teachers and social work teams as they seek to reach out and support the most vulnerable families.

Pray for the governments of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the UK as

they work together to protect the NHS and save lives: For wisdom, close working together and correct priorities.

Pray for those whose incomes have disappeared in the last fortnight: that government measures to support them will come quickly and be enough.

Pray for those whose anxiety at current events is increasing: for people to listen and to care well for one another.
