

The st thomas' story



26th April 2020

St Thomas' will continue to meet using online resources and conference calls.

We will worship at 10.30am every Sunday.

This will be online, using Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin> Note that you do not need a Facebook account to participate in our live worship times.

Online worship is also available live on our YouTube Channel (please subscribe!) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

and can also be viewed on the blog page <https://www.gadgetvicar.org.uk>

Our Twitter account has also been reactivated. Search for @StThomasEdin.

A short video 'Thought for the Day' (recorded most days during David's early morning exercise) are available on the St Thomas' Facebook Page.

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 & Friday: Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Mon 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
| 75 – 79 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8LJ | 0131 316 4292 | www.saintthomas.org.uk |

We continue to use Facebook Live for much of our online presence. A reminder that you do not need a Facebook account to participate in our live worship times. You simply need to go to <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin> and look for a red symbol which says 'Live'. **This is only available when the site is running live at arranged times. See pastoral letter for details.**

Also available live on our YouTube Channel (please subscribe!) at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

We are also using an application called 'Zoom' to pray and meet together. If you need advice about this or anything about our online presence, we can help. Simply contact David McCarthy.

If you are interested in taking part in Online Worship on Sundays either with reading or praying, please let David know. You'll have to be able to make an audio recording of your reading or intercessions in advance and then send the file to him electronically.

The church office is open on Monday and Friday morning (9.30am – 12.30pm) this week BUT contact in person is not available. Two staff members have been furloughed – details in Pastoral letter no 6. Please phone or email and leave a message and we will contact you. We have a team of volunteers who can help out if needed.

The Vestry and Trustees meet in a 'Zoom' meeting on Monday 27 April. Following that meeting we will send you an update of where we are and possible new appointments to serve us on vestry.

*stay home
stay safe*

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 26 April 2020

Online Worship & Gathering

All worship events are available online at:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

Sunday 26 April

Online Worship @ 10.30am – ‘Following the Good Shepherd’

Monday 27 April

@12pm – Midday Prayer

Tuesday 28 April

@9.30pm Night Prayer

Wednesday 29 April

@12pm Midday Prayer

@2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

Thursday 30 April

@ 10am - ‘Zoom’ Coffee Online

Join Zoom Meeting

@ 9.30pm Night Prayer

Our plans of what we will do to be of service in the coming weeks.

- 1. We 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. If you have urgent prayer concerns or needs, please let David know by email, text or message.
- 2. We will offer regular prayer and worship online.** Details of this week's programme are above.
- 3. Some groups will meet using the 'Zoom' conference calling app.** If you need help setting this up, let us know and we can assist. We'll also have informal gatherings online for conversation, care and prayer. **CODES AND LINKS FOR ZOOM MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND IN PASTORAL LETTER SENT OUT ON FRIDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS MEETINGS OR CONTACT DAVID BY EMAIL.**
- 4. Some serious work has been going on to enhance our website.** This is ongoing but please do visit <https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>
- 5. Our Facebook page is now an important resource for communication.** We encourage as many as possible to use it.
<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin/>
See message on previous page stating you do not need a Facebook account to access this.
- 6. 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.
- 7. We will go on praying for all of you,** those on the front line helping people afflicted by Covid-19, our leaders and those who need Jesus Christ now more than ever.

for our prayer

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Amen.

*Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.*

Amen.

Please pray for:

For the musicians and technical people working hard to make videos of the worship songs for Sunday mornings. Give thanks for the talents God has given to members of our congregation.

A reduced Care Van team going out tonight to offer food and God's love to the homeless – for safety and opportunities to show and tell of God's love.

For David McCarthy - Please pray that through these difficult times he will be fearless in declaring the Gospel and that God will speak to him and strengthen him as he leads us as a church at St Thomas'.

For Trustees and Vestry meeting on Monday evening – pray God will be with them as they meet virtually to discuss new vestry membership, future plans and future financial needs.

Thorsten and Kerstin Prill as they travel to Germany on Sunday. His mum is critically ill in hospital. Please pray for a safe journey (drive to Hull - ferry to Rotterdam – drive to Dusseldorf) and that border control authorities will be kind. Pray for comfort for his father at this difficult time.

David Brown, whose sister **Joanne** passed away this week following a long illness. Pray for the funeral service which will be held on Monday 4 May at Warriston Crematorium.

Those **worried about unemployment** or who have been **furloughed** – for continued provision and peace.

For our friends at **Westhill Community Church** as they continue in difficult negotiations with the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney – that the diocese will deal with them in a generous and kind way, and that **Westhill Community Church** will be gracious in word and deed.

Pray for **Bishop Andy Lines** and his wife **Mandy** – for the Lord's strength in their weakness and that they will be strong in His mighty power.

We have included here some information from the North West Edinburgh Group, part of The City of Edinburgh Council.

Parentline Scotland/ Parent Helpline – Children 1st/ Edinburgh Together - Free helpline, email and web-chat service offering advice and support for parents and carers Mon-Fri 9am- 9pm Sat and Sun 9am-12 pm. Tel: 08000 28 22 33 <https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/> includes tips on talking to your children about the Corona-Virus

NSPCC - For parenting advice and support, contact trained online helpline counsellors Tel: 0808 800 5000, weekdays 8am to 10pm and weekends 9am to 6pm, email help@nspcc.org.uk or visit www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/

Lone Parent Helpline-One Parent Families Scotland www.opfs.org.uk - Information and advice for single parents. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.00pm Tel: 08088 010323

Occupational Therapy Helpline - for parents of children with additional support needs. Offers support and advice around your child's everyday life skills and difficulties experienced during COVID -19 pandemic. Tel: 07866848453 9am-12pm Tue-Fri. No appointment system, may need to wait until phone line becomes free

Scottish Domestic Abuse 24 hr Helpline - Support for Women experiencing domestic abuse or forced marriage and their friends and family. Translation facilities available for callers whose first language is not English. Tel: 0808 802 3333 or email helpline@sdafmh.org.uk online chat at www.sdafmh.org.uk

Support for Young People

Young people experiencing a mental health crisis needing urgent help can contact the Young Minds Crisis Messenger by texting 85258, this is available 24 hours a day, every day. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors. Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus.

Childline - Help and advice on a wide range of issues www.childline.org.uk Telephone, online chat, email or forum support. FREE Helpline Tel: 0800 1111