

Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Friends,

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:10-11

We have a possible roadmap out of lockdown! It remains a long road ahead, yet there is hope that at long last we will see family and friends face-to-face. It's the time of year when the Church remembers the Ascension of Jesus. It is a significant remembrance. It ought to move us to action. The responsibility for telling others about the Good News of Jesus lies with me.....and you! Above all we remember who is ultimately in charge – Jesus! That he is fully human...and God! That Jesus is faithful, right to the end. Whatever we face now, these are great truths which are full of hope for us. I have to remind myself over and over to be real about my concerns, but to turn to Him in the face of everything.

Personal News

Ali and I were hoping to be in France for two weeks in June. Obviously, we are not doing that. We are thinking that we will take some rest time during the month. With that in mind, there will be no early morning thoughts, midweek prayer times or meetings facilitated by me from 8 June-21 June. Sunday Online Worship will still take place, livestreamed from the rectory but with pre-recorded sermons. Details of this will follow. Rest, even in time of pandemic, is important!

Church News

FOODBANK

We have had a request from the Corstorphine Community Centre for donations of food, toiletries and cleaning products to help support local families who are struggling at this time. This is an 'emergency food bank' that provides one-off assistance (usually within 24 hrs of a request) on a self-referred basis, and which complements the work of the weekly Edinburgh City Mission Basics Bank service at the Corstorphine Community Church for people

Online Worship, Gathering and Communications

Please read beyond my signature at the bottom of this letter for details of our online gatherings this week.

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'.

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

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

We are also streaming to <https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin> if you want to try something different!

Most days during the week, I publish a short video 'Thought for the Day' during our (early!) morning exercise. These are available on the St Thomas' Facebook Page & Group.

Some serious work has been going on to enhance our website. This is ongoing but please do visit <https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>. Thanks to Angela Benzies for all of her continued effort on this. Angela is seeking to build a bank of photographs to be used online. Please contact her at angelabenzies@gmail.com if you can help with this.

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

If you are interested in taking part in Online Worship on Sundays either with reading or praying, please let us 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 me electronically.

We remain thankful for all the work the musicians and technical people are putting in to making videos of the worship songs for Sunday. We are building up quite a library of lyric videos. Please keep all those involved in this wonderful ministry in prayer.

If you have prayer concerns or needs, please let me have them by email, text or message. You continue in my thoughts and prayers. Please hold Ali and me in yours.

All love In Christ,

St Thomas' Church Online Week Beginning 24 May 2020

Online Worship & Gathering

All worship events are available online at:

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

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

<https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin>

Sunday 24 May

Online Worship @ 10.30am

Is God's Love Steadfast? – Lamentations 3

Monday 25 May

@12pm – Midday Prayer

Tuesday 26 May

@9.30pm Night Prayer

Wednesday 27 May

@12pm Midday Prayer

@2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study

See email from office for Zoom Meeting joining details

Thursday 28 May

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online

See email from office for Zoom Meeting joining details

@9pm – Night Prayer