

## Friday 5 June 2020

Dear Friends,

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles, scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:*

*Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*

1 Peter 1:1-2

It is Trinity Sunday this week. The word, 'Trinity', is not mentioned in the Bible. Yet the doctrine of the Trinity is clearly present throughout. For a helpful explanation you can read the following article:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity>

The Trinity underpins our faith, and it is the Trinity that calls us, makes us holy and helps us respond to, and obey, the Lord Jesus.

We've been reminded this week of human sin in so many ways. The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the resulting protests and the dangerous rhetoric and posturing of leaders point to this. At a local level, you might have observed people breaking the social distancing rules (a lot!), littering (a certain fast food chain opened this week – the following morning you could find the remnants of takeaway food in many public places) and I heard of a mum with a new baby being assaulted by someone in a local store who wanted to buy up all the formula milk. There have been many acts of kindness, we've enjoyed clapping the NHS/carers and neighbours have looked out for one another. All of that is good.

Yet, we know that in our hearts human beings are selfish and prone to worshipping idols. God - the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit - work together to reveal our broken sinful humanity, convict us of our need for forgiveness and lead us to repentance. They help us walk with God in relationship and remind us constantly that we have a wonderful Gospel to share with family, friends and neighbours.

The Trinity also speaks to us of relationship – if we are made in the image of God then we are built to be in relationship. That’s why for many of us, isolation has been hard. But now we can begin to see one another, albeit at a social distance. Let’s begin to enjoy relationships like that again but lets us not forget our lifegiving and sustaining relationship with God. He is with us for the long haul ahead.

## **Church News**

### **FOODBANK**

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the 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 who have been referred for ongoing assistance. It is likely that we will go on supporting this work in the months to come.

### **GIVING**

With this letter there is a financial update from our treasurer. Thank you so much for all that you continue to give. We are grateful to the Lord for your continued generosity. A special thanks to you if you normally give in the Sunday offering but have used other ways to do so during the lockdown. Everyone’s contributions are precious and they enable us to keep St T’s serving. If you’d like to discuss how you can give please contact Agnes Murray ([agnesianm@gmail.com](mailto:agnesianm@gmail.com)).

### **ANNUAL LEAVE**

I am on annual leave over the next few weeks. Obviously Ali and I will be at home. I’ll not be producing my morning thoughts but others will lead online prayers on our Facebook page only. I’ll be producing Sunday worship at usual, but it will all be pre-recorded, including songs prepared by our worship team and technicians.

I will be available in the case of urgent need or emergency.



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!

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](mailto: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.

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 continue to hold Ali and me in yours especially this week as we try to switch off!

All love In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn McCarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## St Thomas' Church Online Week Beginning 7 June 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 7 June**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – Restore & Renew Us? – Lamentations 5**

**Prayerbase 'Zoom' Meeting @ 6.30pm**

See church email of 5<sup>th</sup> for details of how to join Zoom Meeting

### **Monday 8 June**

**@12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook only)**

### **Tuesday 9 June**

**@9.30pm Night Prayer (Facebook only)**

### **Wednesday 10 June**

**@12pm Midday Prayer (Facebook only)**

**@2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study**

Contact Kerstin Prill ( [kerstinprill67@gmail.com](mailto:kerstinprill67@gmail.com) ) for how to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

### **Thursday 11 June**

**@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online**

See church email of 5<sup>th</sup> for details of how to join Zoom Meeting

**@9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook only)**