

# The **st** thomas' **story**



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

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**St Thomas' continues to meet** using online resources and conference calls.

**We will worship at 10.30am every Sunday** followed by a Zoom meeting chat. Please click on the links below (in blue writing) to access the services.

Please check dates and times for **Midday and Night Prayers**.

A short video '**Thought for the Day**' (recorded by David McCarthy) is available on the St Thomas' Facebook Page.

**The church is closed this week and will re-open on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August for prayer and reflection.**

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## **staff and contacts**

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 467 0660 M: 0741 123 6433

e: david@sst.church

Day off: Friday

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 316 4292

e: phil@saintthomas.org.uk

Day off: Monday

**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey

T: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**Church Coordinators:**

Monday, Wednesday only this week

Jane Ross

Office Hours: CLOSED FRIDAY

W: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

**Vestry Secretary:** Kathleen Demircan

T: 0131 316 4292 (*Church Office*)

el: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

**For items to be in next Sunday's the **st** thomas' **story**, please contact the office by 10 a.m. on Thursday.**

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**Can you help out with our Online Worship on Sundays** either with reading or prayers? Please contact David McCarthy if you can. You will need to be able to make an audio or visual recording of your reading or intercessions in advance and then send the file to him electronically or arrange to do them live during the service.

The **Corstorphine Community Centre Emergency Foodbank** are in need of cereal, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, soup mix, stock cubes, rice, tinned fruit, packets/tinned deserts. Sandy Benzies is collecting donations (0131 339 4838) or you can take them in person, to Corstorphine Community Hub, St. John's Road on Wednesday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, please do not leave donations outside as they cannot be used. **Thank you.**

The **Care Van Team** have requested donations of ladies clothes, jumpers and tee-shirts and jeans for men (waist 32" or smaller only). They also need sleeping bags and blankets. Items donated can be left at the church during the week when open - please see opening times listed. Thank you.

If you have been knitting **Beanie hats for Mission to Seafarers**, please can you let Sue Gordon know (01506 418 466) or they can be left at the church office during opening hours. If you would like to knit some, patterns are available from the office.

**The Church office will be open Monday and Wednesday next week but there will be no personal prayer and reflection. There will be no notice sheet or pastoral letter on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. The church will re-open on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August for prayer and reflection.**

**We have a closed (private) Facebook group (*Embrace*) for St Thomas' people** to share needs, resources and prayers. This is a members group and you need to be invited to join the group so please contact David McCarthy for an invitation to be sent to you. If you have urgent prayer concerns or needs, please let David know by email, text or message. Contact details are on front page.

**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 (AFTER DAVID'S SIGNATURE) SENT OUT ON FRIDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS MEETINGS OR CONTACT DAVID BY EMAIL.

**Our new church website is live,** please do visit <https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>. For more details, please see the 'Introduction to new St Thomas' website' document and an image of the 'My Area' section which have been sent with the pastoral letter. Within 'My Area', you can adjust your details, contact preferences and access your rota reminders.

Top tip: to link easily to our Facebook page, YouTube channel and our Twitter account, just click on the social media icons at the top right of the website main page. Thank you to those who have given feedback on the new website. Please do explore and let the Communication Team know what you think by emailing us [stts.comms@gmail.com](mailto:stts.comms@gmail.com) or contacting Angela Benzies.

**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.

**Phil Taylor and our volunteers** are working hard to keep in contact with all our young people and looking for ways they may be able to meet outside. Details will follow. Contact Phil at [phil@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:phil@saintthomas.org.uk) if he can be of help.

# **St Thomas' Church Online**

## **Week Beginning 2 August 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 2 August**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am – I LOVE MY CHURCH: UNITED**

**Post Worship Chat** – Join Zoom Meeting – See details on Pastoral letter 18 or contact David McCarthy for details

**Zoom Prayer Base @ 6.30pm** Join us to pray for our World Concern partners, the nations, the Church and for one another. Join Zoom Meeting:  
See details on Pastoral letter 18 or contact David McCarthy for details

### **Monday 3 August**

**@12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook)**

### **Tuesday 4 August**

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

### **Wednesday 5 August**

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

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

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

### **Thursday 6 August**

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

Join Zoom Meeting

See details on Pastoral letter 18

**@9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)**

# for our prayer

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**Prayer Requests** – please let David McCarthy know if you have specific prayer requests.

## **Prayers for the coming week**

Everlasting God, may the worship of your Church throughout the world be attentive and expectant, ready to be set on fire again and again with the outrageous foolishness but extraordinary truth of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer***

Creator God, may all that encourages the people of the world in goodness, honesty and compassion be blessed and grow; may all that encourages self-seeking and cruelty, prejudice and deceit wither and be exposed as the unsatisfying rubbish it is. May we learn from one another's cultures and respect one another's differences.

Lord in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer***

Father God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

Lord in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer***

Loving God, we pray for all whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God laughable or terrifying.

We pray for all who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those who despair. We pray for those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear especially of the ongoing Pandemic.

Lord in your mercy: ***Hear our prayer***

Merciful God, gather into your eternal kingdom all who have come to the end of this earthly life and rejoice to see you as you really are. We remember all whom we love but can no longer see, and thank you for your overarching love and undergirding faithfulness to us.

Lord in your mercy: *Hear our prayer*

Gracious God, we remember with gratitude all who gave up so much to bring the good news to our country and pray that with us it may continue to be spread until the whole earth knows of your truth and love.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Prayer for a Pandemic**

**May we who are merely inconvenienced** remember those whose lives are at stake. **May we who have no risk factors** remember those most vulnerable. **May we who have the luxury of working from home** remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. **May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close** remember those children who will go hungry with no school meals. **May we who have to cancel our trips** remember those with no place to go. **May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market** remember those who have no margin at all. **May we who settle in for quarantine at home** remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, whose arms of love embrace us all. **Amen.**

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