

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



6th December 2020

We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday; with limited numbers in Congregation. Please book by email or phone by **Friday at 9.00am** to attend.

You can continue to access the service using online resources. Following the service there will be a Zoom meeting chat. Details to join Zoom meetings can be found in Pastoral letter. Click on the link in [blue writing](#).

A short video '**Thought for the Day**' (recorded by David McCarthy) will be available on Facebook Monday to Thursday morning from the 'Rector Cave'.

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

staff and contacts

Rector: Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

e: david@sst.church

Day off: Mon, Tues and Wed

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

e: phil@stt.church

Day off: Off all week

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

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Church Coordinators:

Jane Ross & Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Mon – Fri

9.30am – 12.30pm

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

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 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

Vestry Secretary: Kathleen Demircan

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: 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.**



We meet at church and online at 10.30am.

Please telephone or email the church office to tell us you are coming. You must do this by 9am on the Friday before. Our capacity is 50. It is mandatory to wear a face-covering in a place of worship unless you have a medical condition, disability or other reason which exempts you from this restriction.

Contact us 0131 285 8782 if you are not on our email list but would like more information or a copy of the weekly Pastoral letter.

Jimmie Sibbald's Thanksgiving Service

Jimmie's thanksgiving service will be at Warriston Crematorium on Monday 7 December at 4pm. Because of the Covid-19 regulations, only twenty people can be physically present. Many of us would want to be there, but we can still participate because the service will be streamed at: [Obitus - Home](#) using the username **Xeha9976** and password **263968**

The four gospels are all about Jesus' life and what he has done. Join us for the **Rooted Bible Study** to discover what Jesus continued to do and is still doing today as we study the book of Acts together. **Starting time is 4pm.** There will be 15 minutes of informal chatting. Bible study will be from 4.15 – 5.15pm.

A huge "Thank You" from Mission to Seafarers HQ for the lovely and colourful Beanie hats which come from St Thomas' knitters on a regular basis. There is a quote from a Seafarer after 9 months at sea who said "One day someone (a chaplain) gets on board and gives you something, and honestly you feel like they give you a gold bar. It's like there is someone out there giving a care ... making seafarers feel cared about." The Church office also has patterns for balaclavas, fingerless mittens, and mufflers - so helpful for cold blustery sea conditions. Thank you all, Sue Gordon.

Our Advent Appeal this year is for the Vive Foundation in Colombia.

If you would like to give toward this year's appeal, we would encourage you to donate directly into the St Thomas' World Concern bank account (please note that this is different from the General Fund account). Remember to include "Vive" as your reference. The bank details are:

St Thomas World Concern Bank of Scotland Sort Code: 80-22-60 A/c No.: 18941369.

A Strange Unmaking, the book about the ten years Fiona Christie spent in Colombia, is now available to buy as a paperback and an eBook from Amazon <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08MVFY5YX>

Many thanks to Ian Divine for installing our dementia-friendly signage and new toilet seats, both part of the project for which we obtained City of Edinburgh Council grant funding earlier this year. Just a few more things to do now and that project will be complete! We look forward to welcoming back into the building those for whom these adjustments will be most helpful.

F.@.S.T. Club

Phil Taylor our Youth Worker distributed over five hundred invitations to this Friday afternoon after-school club to homes near South Gyle station. He writes: *'Please continue to pray for our taster sessions in December. Particularly pray for those who received a flyer; that they might look favourably upon it and look to sign up. We need more volunteers to help out. Please contact Phil on 078734106404 urgently. No previous experience with children is needed'*

Since March, we have not celebrated the Lord's Supper together. This has been for several reasons, some spiritual and some practical. We need to end this difficult year and begin the new one in as hopeful a manner as possible. Our last service of the year on **27 December** and the first service of 2021 on **3 January** will therefore include **a celebration of Holy Communion.**

This will be done in as safe a way as possible but, as with so much this year, it cannot be done as we would have in the past. At the moment (this is subject to change) it will involve the following:

- we will be limited to fifty people, so pre-booking will be essential.
- if numbers are greater than fifty on 27 December, those who can't come that Sunday will be given priority on 3 January.
- This part of our worship will not be streamed online.
- Recipients will receive the bread and wine seated (to minimise the breaking of social distancing rules)
- Bread and wine will come in pre-prepared wafer/juice packages and will be on the seats at the beginning of worship. Gluten-free wafers will also be available if you inform us that they are needed (we will have to allocate you a seat on arrival for this).

Care Van At the moment there is enough clothing apart from **SMALL** men's trousers/jeans (no bigger than 32" waist) and men's jumpers/sweatshirts? If you can help with any of these items, please leave them at church on a Sunday or weekday mornings.

'The St T's Advent Light Calendar'

The idea is to add some true **Light** to all the illuminated santas and snowmen we can expect to appear in gardens this Christmas! Please remember that when your day goes 'live', **take a photograph and send it to me**. We'll then post it on social media and the church website.

Advent & Christmas Idea

Any takers, please? During Advent, we are seeking a few people to record a brief video testimony which would say, *"Advent fills me with hope and joy because....."*. We'd include one testimony every Sunday.

We'd also like lots of people to record a brief video which we would compile to be used for our Christmas Eve worship (details to be confirmed!). We simply want a few sentences on what Christmas means to you and why.

Advent Foodbank Collection In cooperation with our friends at Corstorphine Community Church, we plan on collecting food and toiletries for the local Basics Bank through Advent up to 20 December. Please bring donations to church or let us know and we will pick up bags from your home. Linda Henderson writes: ***"Any donations would be gratefully received however at the moment we do not need any pasta or tins of beans. Particularly useful would be toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste and hand soap. Also household cleaning products like washing up liquid, antibacterial spray or wipes and washing powder or capsules."***

Thanks to everyone who took part in last Friday's on-line Quiz and for the warm feedback (despite our technical problems at the start!). Congratulations to "Abiden With Me" from Lindsays who narrowly beat off competition from Bill Wright's "Clutching at Straws" team. Look out for another one, probably around the beginning of February! Further details in the New Year.

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 6 December 2020

Please note that all 'Zoom' meetings now require participants to enter a passcode. This feature has been added to boost the security and safety of those taking part.

Online Worship & Gathering

All worship events are available online at:

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

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

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

Sunday 6 December

Online Worship @ 10.30am – Cleaning Up The Mess! – Isaiah 40: 1 – 11.

Pre- & Post- Worship Chat: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Monday 7 December

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 8 December

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 9 December

@ 12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook)

“Rooted” Bible Study @ 4.15 - 5.15pm - Rooted Bible Study

Contact Kerstin Prill (kerstinprill67@gmail.com) to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

Thursday 10 December

@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

in the coming weeks may we make wise choices about travel and visiting.

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding the nations at this time,
and shaping policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable, the grieving and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen