

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



13th 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*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

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. Booking can be done up to and including the 3rd January. 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.

The church office will close on Wednesday 23rd December and reopen on Tuesday 5th January. Booking of all church services including 3rd January should be done before Tuesday 22nd December

Central Meeting - Thursday 17 December @ 7.30pm Please join us to meet and pray together. It continues to be a joy to offer this. You don't need to be able to pray out loud. Your presence means a lot!

Details to Join the Zoom Meeting are in the Pastoral letter.

Phil Taylor is leading the service next Sunday 20th December and asks that people coming along to the service dress as a character in the Nativity.

Shirley Sibbald and her family wish to thank the many members of the St T's family for their beautiful cards and letters of appreciation of Jimmie. He had a long and fulfilling life and was ready to leave this earth. We were thankful to be able to care for him in the home in which he has lived for 59 years.

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>

F.@.S.T. Club

Phil Taylor our Youth Worker ran the first taster session on Friday 11th December. Eleven children attended the afternoon. The club will start in January. **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).

'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.***"

Church Finances

There are two things to say:

1. Attached is the Finance Report which covers the first two months of our new financial year. The format is completely new, both in terms of amount of detail and layout. The aim is to help us focus our thoughts on the means that we have at our disposal to fund our work of mission. Mission is what we are all about. Once we have funded our mission work, we then see how much is left for running the church - maintaining the properties and operating the charity.

We hope that those who are interested in the figures will find the new format helpful. Suggestions and comments are welcome on stthomastreasurer@yahoo.com !

2. On Monday we were delighted to receive a legacy of £1,166. We are very grateful to our church members when they choose to remember us in their will. Our finances are quite stretched at the moment and this gift is very timely

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 13 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 13 December

Online Worship @ 10.30am – Deck The Halls – Isaiah 61: 1 – 11.

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

Monday 14 December

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 15 December

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 16 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 17 December

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

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

Please keep the following in prayer:

[F.@.S.T.](#) Club Taster sessions – give thanks for all those who came this week.
Pray for safety, fun and new relationships.

Christmas – wisdom as we consider whether and how to travel. Pray too for our worship – that we will be filled with joy and wonder of the Incarnation, even in the face of the restrictions we are under.

Pray for Anna, Doug and Andrew McLaggan – for Anna's healing, and peace and strength for her family.

Remember Shirley Sibbald, following the thanksgiving service for her husband Jimmie – for comfort and encouragement.

Pray for Bill McGillivray recovering from a chest infection.

Holy Jesus,

by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,

your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.