

The st thomas' story



20th December 2020

We have a Family Service at 10.30am this Sunday; with limited numbers in Congregation. Bookings for all services up to 3rd January should be made by Tuesday 22nd December.

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](#).

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

Emergency contact only till 5th Jan

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

e: phil@stt.church

Off till 5th Jan

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

Church Coordinators:

Jane Ross & Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Wednesday only

9.30am – 12.30pm until Tues 5th Jan

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

Vestry Secretary: Kathleen Demircan

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

The next **st thomas' story** will be Sunday 10th January 2021



St Thomas' Church is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC049045
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Contact the church office to tell us you are coming to services. Booking can be done up to and including the 3rd January. **Please book before Tuesday 22nd December.** 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 next Pastoral letter will be on Friday 8th January 2021.

The church office will close on Wednesday 23rd December and reopen on Tuesday 5th January. Phil Taylor is off till 5th January and David McCarthy is available for emergency contact only from next week until 5th January.

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.

Please note that there will be **no Rooted meeting on 23rd December. Rooted will have a meeting on 30th December** entitled "God's goodness in 2020 (opportunity to chat informally and share short stories of God's goodness/answers to prayer in 2020)". First meeting of 2021 is Wednesday 6th January. The Zoom link for meeting can be obtained from Kerstin Prill on 07849716265 or email kerstinprill67@gmail.com

Knitting is still needed for the Mission to Seafarers. The Church office has patterns for hats, balaclavas, fingerless mittens, and mufflers - so helpful for cold blustery sea conditions. For further information please contact 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.

We would 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."*

Details for funeral service of Billie Smith: Live Webcast and 28 days watch again. Date of service is Saturday 19th December at 10.00am. Please sign in five minutes before start of service using Username: Vaxa9313 and Password: 073824. You will be automatically redirected to the Live Webcast. Once the service is finished it should be available to watch again by 25th December or as soon as possible after that date. Use the same login information.

Premier Christian Radio are asking people to join them for **Carols on the Doorstep** on Sunday 20th December at 5.20pm. The station can be found on digital channel 725 or on the Premier Christian radio channel. You are invited to go out onto your doorstep and sing four carols: Hark the Herald Angels Sing, O Come All Ye Faithful, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

St Thomas' Church Online

Week Beginning 20 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 20 December

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

Post- Worship Chat: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Monday 21 December

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Tuesday 22 December

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 23 December

@ 12pm – Midday Prayer (Facebook)

No Rooted Bible Study on 23rd December. We will meet again on 30th December and 6th January.

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

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

Thursday 24 December

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

@4pm: - Worship for Christmas Eve - *'Welcoming the Guest'*

@9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

Friday 25 December Christmas Day

@ 10.30-11am Online Worship live from the rectory!

'Zoom' Post-Worship Greetings: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Sunday 27 December

@ 10.30am Online Worship

'Zoom' Post-Worship Chat: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Wednesday 30 December

@ 4pm Rooted - "God's Goodness in 2020" (an opportunity to chat informally and share short stories of God's goodness/answers to prayer in 2020)". Contact Kerstin Prill (kerstinprill67@gmail.com) to join this 'Zoom' meeting.

Sunday 3 January 2021

@10.30am Online Worship

'Zoom' Post-Worship Chat: Zoom details on Pastoral letter

Tuesday 5 January

@ 9.30pm - Night Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 6 January

@ 12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

@ 4pm Rooted

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

Thursday 7 January

@ 10am-11am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online

To join the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91465416252>

Meeting ID: 914 6541 6252 Passcode: 777989

@ 9.30pm Night Prayer (Facebook)

for our prayer

*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.
Amen.*

*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.*

*Loving Jesus,
you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.
Be with all who are lonely,
and with all who feel distant from celebrations.*

*We pray for all who live and work in care home in these difficult times.
Be for them a living hope that lightens their hearts.
Amen.*

*Jesus, as you healed the sick,
bring healing to those in our families who are ill today - we pray for Anna, Doug, Andrew
and Bill.*

*We give thanks for the development of vaccines to help prevent Covid-19 spreading and
pray that people will be wise in the decisions they make in the coming weeks in regards to
family and celebrations.*

*Jesus, Lord of love,
in your mercy, hear us.*

*Christ born for us,
Son of God, given for us,
help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.
Amen.*