

# The st thomas' story

9 May 2021

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**We will worship at 10.30am this Sunday in church and online.**

Details at end of notice sheet for St Thomas' Online. **Please book early.**

**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.

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

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## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

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Day off: Friday

**Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:**

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**Worship Coordinator:** David Harvey

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**Church Coordinators:**


Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri  
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 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

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**Vestry Secretary:** Kathleen Demircan

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**St Thomas' office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning, 9.30am to 12.00pm.** Please book for in-person at services as early as possible. We can only take bookings two weeks ahead.

**Rooted** Bible Studies this week on Monday and Wednesday. Please see the event programmes below.

**From Monday 17 May, our online prayer times will be as follows:**

- Midday Prayer on Tuesdays at 12pm
- Night Prayer on Thursdays at 9.30pm

In addition, we will add a short interactive 'Zoom' prayer gathering once a week. Details of this will appear in the weekly pastoral letter.

I know that some of us find these times so helpful – thank you for telling me. I believe it is vital that we go on praying together. I am also aware that we must let people step back when we have the opportunity or need to do so.

As we explore how we can begin meeting together in person again, we are also looking at the possibility of making the Prayer Base and Central Meeting in June events which will take place in St Ts' building.

**New Logo:** Angela Benzies and Gavin Hamilton have put together a helpful guide which explains how the new logo came to be and how we will use it. This has been sent with this weeks pastoral letter.

**St Thomas' World Concern:** If you have a member log-in for the St Thomas' Church website, you will now be able to find monthly prayer updates from our mission partners and other mission and international news for prayer. Click on

"updates" on the World Concern menu. If you don't have a log-in and would like one, please contact the office.

**Volunteers:** While we recognise that many among us need not to be too tied to volunteering duties, we should also be aware that will make restarting some of our ministries before the summer quite tricky. One example is the 'F.A.S.T. Club' which was piloted at Christmas time. It might be that we need to take our time to focus on putting together a strong programme and team for an August holiday club, which might then serve as a launch pad for the F.A.S.T. Club. I encourage you to prayerfully consider through the summer how to re-engage, how to serve, and how to give of your time. Many of us have had a year off serving at St Ts'. Once we have enjoyed the returning freedoms, we will all need to work together to help rebuild our fellowship, perhaps in new ways.

### **St Thomas' Church Online**

**Sunday 9 May 2021**

to

**Sunday 16 May 2021**

**You must let the office know if you'd like to be present for any of our in-person services.** This will assist with track and trace should it become necessary. Our service at 10.30am will continue to be streamed online for those who cannot join us in person.

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.

Sunday worship and some other events are available online at:

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

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

<https://www.twitter.com/StThomasEdin>

### **Sunday 9 May**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship**

**Post Worship Chat**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

### **Monday 10 May**

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

**@4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter or contact Kerstin Prill.

### **Tuesday 11 May**

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

### **Wednesday 12 May**

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

**@4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter or contact Kerstin Prill.

**@7.30pm - Pastoral Care Team members – meeting on ‘Zoom’**

### **Thursday 13 May**

**@ 10am-11am - ‘Zoom’ Coffee Online**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

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

### **Sunday 16 May**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship**

**Post-Worship Chat**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

# for our prayer

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As counting of votes begins today and we await the full results over the weekend, let's pray for **all the candidates and political parties** seeking to represent us in the Scottish Parliament:

- that they will seek the common good
- that divisiveness will be restrained in this already troubled time
- that they will seek God's ways
- that they will serve with humility and integrity

For **Jane Ross**: her time as our administrator comes to an end. She has served the Lord with us so diligently in seen and unseen ways – pray that she will know blessing as she is released from ministry at St Ts' and joy as she and Gordon begin a new life down south.

For those we know who are **sick, lonely, or depressed**: for healing, peace and support.

Pray for **dentists and their staff** – we learned this week that they are seeing many more people with dental problems caused by the stresses of the last year.

## **World Concern Focus - Pray for India**

Please pray for:

1. **God's wisdom for political leaders** to make the right decisions regarding using resources to reduce pain and suffering.
2. Pray that **medical supplies** will be constantly available (Covid vaccines, other vital medicines, oxygen...). Please pray against the black marketing and hoarding of oxygen and critical medicines like Remdesivir.

3. The **families that are going through enormous pain of loss**, neglect, loneliness, and helplessness. Particularly for those from the majority religious tradition - a pain (or guilt) of not being able to take care of their loved ones due to health system collapse and a sense of non-fulfilment due to not giving a proper farewell to the deceased as per their religious requirements.

4. Pray for the church leadership (many key leaders in the north and south of India have died), and believers. Pray that the families who lost their loved ones have peace and comfort. The church has stopped all physical meetings, please pray that the **faith life of the believers is strong during this crisis**.

5. The **Seminaries and Bible colleges** in the country are going through tremendous pressure. Last year, almost all seminaries had closed residential programs. And now this year there is a dilemma about how to move forward. It is affecting leadership training, the preparation of thousands of future leaders.

6. **Christian hospitals** in the country are serving people in crisis. Please pray for doctors and medical staff that they become hope amid chaos.

7. Christians across the country are engaged in helping people in all sorts of ways. Pray for greater **collaboration, cooperation, and resource mobilisation** among the Christian groups.

**Please pray for Colombia:** there has been considerable political, economic and health turmoil in recent weeks. To read more, go to:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/may/06/colombia-protests-violent-unrest-police-crackdown>