

The st thomas' story

16 May 2021

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, they have changed.

staff and contacts

Rector: Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

e: david@stt.church

Day off: Friday

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

Phil Taylor

T: 0131 285 8782

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Part furloughed

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

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Church Coordinators:

Rosemary Harvey

Office Hours: Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
9.30am – 12.00pm.

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

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.

Thank you message from Gordon & Jane Ross,

God is patient, generous and faithful. He is in the saving, healing, redeeming and blessing business. Remember:

God is good, always!

Gordon and I would like to say a very, very big THANK YOU to everyone who said goodbye to us on Sunday morning. The gift we received was awesome and it was such a wonderful surprise.

When we get everything settled in our bungalow in Greasby we will buy something really special to remember you all by.

We will let you know what we buy!

Thank you all for your friendship, love, support, fellowship and most of all thank you all for your prayers.

It has been such a joy to work for the people of St Thomas' and for God.

I am going to take my time to find a new church because it will have a lot to live up to.

If anyone is down in the Wirral please contact us and you will be very welcome to come for lunch or a coffee stop. Our new address will be:

9 Beauworth Avenue

Greasby

CH49 3QY

07507485053

Once again, thank you all so much. Gordon and Jane Ross.

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. Sunday's at 6.30pm – 7pm. 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 16 May 2021

to

Sunday 23 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 16 May

@ 10.30am Online Worship – (Pastoral Care Team being Commissioned)

Post Worship Chat

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

Monday 17 May

@4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study

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

Tuesday 18 May

@12pm - Midday Prayer (Facebook)

Wednesday 19 May

@4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study

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

Thursday 20 May

@ 10am-11am - ‘Zoom’ Coffee Online

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

@7.30pm – 8.30pm Zoom Central Meeting, details in Pastoral letter.

@ 9.30pm – Night Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday 23 May

Pentecost Sunday

@ 10.30am Online Worship

Post-Worship Chat

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

@ 6.30pm Zoom prayer gathering, details in Pastoral letter.

for our prayer

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.'
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your prosperity."

Psalm 122:6-9

As we watch events and pray for the Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular people who live in Israel and Palestine, you might find this link helpful:

[How to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: Meaning and Bible Verses \(christianity.com\)](https://christianity.com/how-to-pray-for-the-peace-of-jerusalem-meaning-and-bible-verses)

World Concern Focus - Pray for India

Please continue to 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.

St T's

Pray for:

Phil Taylor as he leads worship this Sunday.

Rosemary Harvey as she adjusts to new hours in the church office.

Give thanks for the anticipated start of the **F@ST Club** for children – we have a team of volunteers. Pray for resourcing, enthusiasm and for children to come!

Pray for **Angela Benzies' mother**, who is in hospital in Belfast and for Angela as she offers care and support to the family.

Pray for our World Concern partners, **Paul & Isolde James-Griffiths**, who are able to take holiday time in the Highlands over the next few weeks – pray for rest and refreshment as they contemplate the opening up of the Edinburgh which might bring more visitors.