

# The st thomas' story

23 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, they have changed.

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## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

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Day off: Friday

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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.

**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.

## **Thank you from Sue Gordon,**

I took the most recent batch of 150 Beanie Hats knitted over the last quarter to the Mission to Seafarers Chaplain, the Revd Tim Tunley. He is so grateful for these, knitted generously and with love for the seafarers he visits in his duties round the Scottish ports. The really chill weather especially in our waters over these months has made the hats such a welcome and appreciated gift to the seafarers, and an opportunity for him to express the Christian hope and love by which they have been made and given. Thank you to each of our knitters.

For others who may like to join the knitting, the patterns are available from the Church Office. Thank you, Sue Gordon.

## **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.

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.

## **Coming Out of Lockdown – Legal Requirements**

Since Easter, it has been great to gather for worship together on Sundays.

However, we remain under some difficult restrictions –

- We are limited in how many can be present in our building
- We must maintain social distancing of 2m
- We must ensure that surfaces are regularly sanitised
- Congregational singing is not permitted
- The law says we must require people to wear masks

We remain hopeful that as we go through summer, some or all of these restrictions will be lifted. For now, they remain law and we must follow them, or risk intervention by the authorities. If we had an outbreak focussed on St T's, we would run the risk of our in-person worship being stopped. It is therefore essential that we abide by the regulations as best we can, believing that they will help keep everyone safe and confident to worship with us.

A few weeks ago, a visitor to the congregation wore a lanyard indicating that they were exempt from wearing a mask. That was a helpful indicator and put others at ease, so we ask that those who can't wear masks do the same. It helps others who worry about this and means that awkward questions are avoided!

Please go to <http://exempt.scot/> to find out more.

**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 23 May 2021

to

Sunday 30 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 23 May**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship – Pentecost Sunday**

**Post Worship Chat**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

**@ 6.30pm Zoom Prayer gathering, details in Pastoral letter.**

### **Monday 24 May**

**@ 4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study**

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

**Tuesday 25 May**

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

**Wednesday 26 May**

**@4pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study**

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

**Thursday 27 May**

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

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

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

**Sunday 28 May**

**@ 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

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**World Concern Focus:** Let's pray for **Madagascar** and **Namibia**.

For information, please watch:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210501-un-sounds-alarm-over-potential-famine-threatening-madagascar>

For the conflict between Israeli & Palestinian leadership: that their hearts and minds will be turned to peace and that there will be a turning away from the violence which has killed and injured so many.

**Update from Fiona Christie on Cath Murray:**

*"I spoke to a helpful member of staff at Victoria Manor this afternoon and she said Cathie's move had gone well yesterday and she was quite settled. She has to be in isolation for 10 days and then can receive two designated visitors. Her address is Windsor House, Victoria Manor, 63 Albert Street, Leith, EH7 5LW. Let's continue to remember Cathie in prayer."*

**For David McCarthy:**

"I am meeting with the elders and new vestry of Westhill Community Church on Saturday 22 May between 10am and 12pm to answer questions and offer advice where appropriate. Pray for wisdom for me and for them as they seek agreement on the way ahead." I am also preaching for them (in-person!) on Sunday 30 May, so please pray that my preparation will be good and that God's Word to them will be clear.

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.

## **St T's**

Give thanks for the anticipated start of the **F@ST Club** for children on Friday afternoon this week – 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.