

# The st thomas' story

18 July 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](#).

**Please see Pastoral letter 59 for zoom meeting ID and passcodes.**

**Please see church calendar on the website for further information.**

[www.saintthomas.org.uk](http://www.saintthomas.org.uk)

## staff and contacts

**Rector:** Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

e: [david@stt.church](mailto: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*)

e: [churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk)

**Church Coordinators:**


Rosemary Harvey

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

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

e: [churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk)

**Please book for in-person at services as early as possible. We can take bookings two weeks in advance. Please email the church office. Please note the office is closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

**WHATSAPP PRAYER GROUP:** This is an invitation to all of the St Thomas' family to join a new WhatsApp Prayer Group. This will run alongside the rest of the Prayer Ministry and will be primarily for quick prayer requests for friends and family.

It is not the intention that there will be a lot of 'chat' or messaging within the group. Anyone wishing to respond to any prayer request will be encouraged to respond directly to the individual concerned.

The group's administrators will be Linda Henderson and Anne Grant. For more information, please contact either of us. If you would like to be part of this group please let Linda know, on 07891 059233.

If you would prefer to have prayer ministry by Zoom or Skype, or by phone, please contact the ministry team on [sttsprayer@gmail.com](mailto:sttsprayer@gmail.com) you can also contact us on this email if you would simply like the ministry team to pray about something; for instance, if someone in your family is ill.

### **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 holiday club, **9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August**, 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.

**REQUEST FOR RECYCLING JUNK** – please leave any recycling that could be used for modelling for the F@ST holiday club in the box in the church corridor by **2<sup>nd</sup>**

**August.** Alternatively it can be brought to the church office during opening hours. *Thank you. Phil Taylor*

**St Thomas' Church Online**

**Sunday 18 July 2021**

**to**

**Sunday 25 July 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 18 July**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship – Summer Fruit – Peace. Sandy Benzies is leading the service.**

**Post Worship Chat** -“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

**Thursday 22 July**

**@ 10am-11am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online** - meeting details in Pastoral letter.

**Sunday 25 July**

**@ 10.30am Online Worship**

**Post-Worship Chat**

“Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter.

**No - Zoom prayer gathering – will recommence in August.**

# for our prayer

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Pray for the **family of Bill McGillivray, his funeral** took place on Monday 12 July. For Bill’s family and friends.

Pray for **Shirley Winters and her family** following the death of Robert, her step-father. For care and help for Shirley’s mother, Sally. For comfort and peace for all.

Give thanks for the **F@ST Club** for children on Friday afternoon. Pray for Phil Taylor and the team as they prepare, for a growth in numbers, continued resourcing, and much enthusiasm! Pray too for the plans for a **Holiday Club** 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Pray for **Joyce Riley** who is in pain. She is struggling with asthma and changes in her medication.

Pray for **Rob Hyder** and **Delia** as Rob recovers from surgery – for healing, grace, and strength.

For **Helen Eberstein** – who is now resident in Murrayfield Care Home.

Pray for **those whose lives and marriages** have been scarred by unfaithfulness, abuse, and violence – for healing and restoration.

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

For **David Harvey**, who continues to suffer from a very painful damaged shoulder – for healing and patience.

Pray for all those whose **mental health has suffered** because of Covid and the restrictions placed on us all – for recovery, freedom, and a return of peace.

Let's not forget those **servicing in schools** – for rest this summer!

For **NHS workers** as numbers of Covid infections rise – pray that the numbers hospitalised does not go up.

Remember **countries where vaccination rates and availability are low** – for example - Uganda, Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Brazil, & Colombia. Pray that countries like the UK will be unselfish in sharing resources.

Pray for **opportunities for all of us** to show and tell others about the Good News of Jesus this week.

Pray for **Dave & Ali** that they may have a restful holiday.