

The st thomas' story

19, 26 December 2021 & 2nd January 2022

We will worship at 10.30am for Sunday's 4th Advent Communion service, in church and online. To attend in person, please email the office to book for Track & Trace purposes.

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 for zoom meeting ID and passcodes.

Please see church calendar on the website for further information.

www.saintthomas.org.uk

staff and contacts

Rector: Rev. David McCarthy

W: 0131 374 3694 M: 0741 123 6433

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Day off: Friday

Young Persons' Pastoral Worker:

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Day off: Monday

Worship Coordinator: David Harvey

T: 0131 285 8782 (*Church Office*)

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Church Coordinator:

Rosemary Harvey

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

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 @StThomasEdin

 St Thomas' Church, Edinburgh

<https://saintthomas.org.uk>

Treasurer: Miller Bogie

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Vestry Secretary: Kathleen Demircan

e: churchoffice@saintthomas.org.uk

Please note the office will be closed from Monday 20th December – Tuesday 4th January (inclusive). Reopens on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

St Ts' Christmas Card: we have a large Christmas card available in church for everyone to sign and send greetings to one another. Please sanitise your hands before and after signing it!

Please check pigeon holes for Christmas cards. *Thank you*

The Vive Advent Appeal 2021

The Vive Foundation in Colombia continues to transform the lives of children affected by poverty and violence through their network of Funky Frog Clubs.

Our partnership with them is hugely appreciated by the team and the strength of the pound against the Colombian peso means your gifts will go even further this year. The pandemic has had a devastating impact on Colombia and the church's witness to the hope found in Christ is more relevant than ever.

Please make your donation via 'St Thomas World Concern' Fund account and make sure you include Vive in the reference so we know what it's for.

World Concern Account details: Bank of Scotland - Sort Code: 80-22-60

Account number: 1894 1369. *Thank you, Fiona Christie.*

Christmas 2021: this year, we are trying a different pattern for our worship together. We've got some publicity which will be available from next Sunday for you to give to neighbours and friends.

**24 December @ 4-4.45pm – All-Age Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight
followed by refreshments**

@ 5pm – Holy Communion

25 December @ 10.30-11.15am – Online only

26 December @ 10.30am – Morning Worship, in person & online

Sunday 19 December 2021

to

Sunday 9 January 2022

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 19 December

@ 10.30am Communion Service – David McCarthy is preaching.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer Base

Wednesday 22 December

@ 2pm – ‘Grounded’ mens’s Bible Study “Zoom” meeting, details in Pastoral letter

@ 8pm – Night Prayer on Facebook

Friday 24 December

@ 4pm All Age Carol Service – David McCarthy is preaching.

@ 5pm Communion Service

Saturday 25th December

@ 10.30am Christmas Day Service – online only

Sunday 26 December

@ 10.30am Service, Thorsten Prill is preaching.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer Base

Sunday 2 January 2022

@ 10.30am Service, David McCarthy is preaching.

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

@ 6.30pm – 7pm “Zoom” Prayer Base

Monday 3 January

@ 4pm – Rooted Bible Study “Zoom” meeting details in Pastoral letter

Wednesday 5 January

@ 2pm – ‘Rooted’ Bible Study meet in the main hall

@ 8pm – Night Prayer on Facebook

for our prayer

Give thanks for **Catherine Murray** whose birthday is this Sunday. We won't say what age she is, but we think there is a 'seven' and a 'six' in there?

Pray for **Wilma Finlayson** who moved into Murrayside Care Home this week – for a peaceful transition.

Pray for **Sheila & Ian Divine** following the passing of their Auntie Moy — for peace and the comfort of the Lord.

Pray for **Bev & Ian** as she faces a serious medical prognosis — for the Lord's care and reassurance.

For **Philip & Naomi De Grey-Warter** as he recovers from a heart attack — for rest and healing.

Pray for the **Care Van Team** as they offer support to homeless people on Sunday 26 December.

Pray for **Vive in Colombia** as we consider how we will support that ministry again this Christmas.

For **all St Ts' people** hoping to be with loved ones in the next few weeks — for safe travel and good health.

Pray for those considering **planting churches in Wales**, especially for **Josh** and **Rachel Maynard** as they begin Wellspring Church on the Angle peninsula in Pembrokeshire on 30 January.

Pray for **businesses** struggling to get supplies, find staff to employ, and who are worried about surviving the winter — for provision in all these areas, help from consumers, and support from government.

Pray for **UK & Scottish Governments** following difficult decisions this week. Pray too as governments around the world consider measures such as mandating vaccinations and passports — that the right balance is found between freedom to make choices and care for people in our communities.

Pray for **scientists and medical staff** as they investigate the Omicron variant — let's pray that it does not cause a serious growth in the number of hospitalisations and deaths.

Pray for **those who serve in education, health care, and caring professions** — for rest over the Christmas and New Year period as well as renewed resourcing for what lies ahead.

Continue to pray for **David Harvey**, whose struggle with pain from his damaged shoulder is ongoing.

A Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.