

# St Thomas

## News



### What's on at St Thomas' this week? (Online and in church!)

- 10.30 am Sunday Worship on YouTube, and also in church!
  - Wednesday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9am, with Pauline.
  - Weekly Zoom Bible study every Friday at 2pm

**All links can be found in your Saturday email**

#### Calling green-fingered gardeners...

If you are free on Saturday mornings from 10am come along and enjoy an opportunity to keep St Thomas's garden looking fresh and beautiful! For more details email Malcolm at

[malcolmmarjoram@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:malcolmmarjoram@hotmail.co.uk)

If you intend to come, please ring Malcolm on 07834 224 481 first.

## Meet Our Interim Priest:

Reverend Pauline Nashashibi



Pauline says "I am delighted that I will be with you until a new vicar is appointed. I look forward to getting to know you better".

We asked Pauline some questions on your behalf. Read more here:

<https://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/interviews>

#### What was your career before you were ordained?

I was in adult education for most of my career and had a particular interest in developing progression routes into higher education for mature students.

#### How did the decision to be ordained affect your life and family?

I started training for ordination when I got my pension. My family were supportive generally although my son said he had thought I would join a gym and get fit and have an easier life!

#### When you arrived at St Thomas's in 2012 as our assistant priest how different was it from your home church?

I am from Belfast and the Church of Ireland I attended as a child when I was growing up was 'on the ground' compared with the high church worship at St Thomas's. It was quite a shock to the system for both Stephen and me, but I came to love the rich and varied liturgy at St Thomas's and wouldn't wish to have been trained anywhere else. Stephen and I shared a great interest in interfaith work.

#### You are our interim priest at the moment— how is it different from being the incumbent of a church?

It's a lot different. There are areas that I can leave to others – and at my time of life that's good. I live in walking distance so I have ongoing contacts that I value.

#### Do you have a favourite Bible passage that helps your faith?

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

*Psalm 119.105*

We are reopening the church for Holy Communion this Sunday, 26 July. We are starting with the shorter (spoken) version of our usual service, with suitable social distancing and other safety measures. We will do this until we can return to our full Sunday service with hymns and music. If you are unable to join us at 10.30am in church our online services are continuing on YouTube.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6kvnxyv>

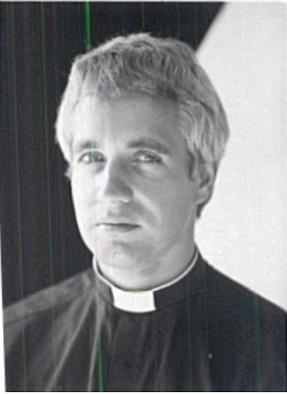
# Reverend Stephen Coles

*We're very fortunate to have Pauline as our interim priest, following Stephen's retirement at Easter. Due to the Lockdown we were unable to say goodbye to him in the way that we would have wanted to, but we will have a party for him when we're able to do it in true "St Thomas" style.*

*Our Sunday School interviewed Stephen last year. Here's what they found out:*

## Why did you become a vicar?

I wanted a job that involved helping other people; that allowed me to have close relationships with people at very important points in their lives in a way that I hoped would be careful and helpful.



Stephen, when he first arrived

## How long have you been the vicar at St Thomas'?

I'm seventy, and I came here thirty years ago. I had just passed my fortieth birthday. I'd celebrated my birthday, and part of my celebrations was to come here

## What was your first day at St Thomas' like?

It was very hot! It was the 21 July, 1989, and it was very hot and the church was very full. There were lots of people and we had a big party in the hall afterwards. Some of my old students from Cambridge came and took lots and lots of photographs, which I still have.

## What is your favourite message in the Bible?

My favourite message from the Bible would be, 'I no longer call you servants, I call you friends,' which Jesus said at the Last Supper to his disciples.

## Read more of this interview online here:

<https://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/interviews>

To read other interesting local interviews with Stephen, please see:

[Highbury Community Association's News, July 2020](#)

[Islington Faces, July 2013](#)

If you'd like to speak with our priest, contact

Revd Pauline Nashashibi:

email: [priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com](mailto:priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com)

Or phone to talk:

Phone 020 7263 8268 Mobile 07530 969

Stay in touch with us at

St Thomas':

[www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/](http://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/)

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Thomas-the-Apostle-Finsbury-Park-620638091312852/>

Follow our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNSPvWmICR8-tjNx1fFsc8Q>

Give Generously:

If you are able to give at this time, we would be very grateful. Your contribution is very important and helps to continue life here at St Thomas.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9php2pp>

Scan the QR code below:



## History of St Thomas' Church

This week we give thanks for the life of:

Rev. Frederick Isaacs, who was offered the post of first Parish Priest of St Thomas' on 24th July 1887.

*Find out more about the History of St Thomas next time.*

**Do you know anyone who doesn't have access to a computer? Please print this newsletter for them if you can. Perhaps they might like to know there is a FREE phone line called Daily Hope, 0800 804 8044, offering a collection of well-known hymns, the stories behind the hymns, joining in with Morning or Evening Prayer, or receiving the latest relevant public health advice.**