



Widcombe  
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

## Newsletter May 2016

I've always loved Star Wars - it seemed to fill most of my early childhood memories and whenever asked what I wanted to do when I grew up, the only thing that really appealed was saving the universe from Darth Vader and marrying Princess Leia. So I guess it has always seemed a kind of glorious destiny that the date of my birth eventually became known as "Star Wars Day" – May the Fourth... be with you! (If you don't get it, best to ask someone under 45.)

Luke Skywalker, farm boy turned hero and all round good chap, along with the other Jedi Knights, became famous for his lightsaber – a kind of futuristic laser sword always at hand to be wielded against the dark forces of oppression. I always wanted one, and this recently got me thinking about the battles and struggles that we sometimes come up against – how do I cope, what might help me not just survive but overcome and, importantly, to perhaps ask the question, "what might God have given me in this season to help me in my battles?"

Consider Moses: there he is sweltering in the heat of the Sinai desert, moaning at God. "I can't do what you want, Lord... People won't listen to me... I'm useless at talking... Choose someone else." But arguing with God is never a great idea. You don't win and if you say "no" or "I can't," you might miss out on the great adventure that God has for you when you trust and obey.

So here in the midst of the barren wastes of the Sinai, God asks Moses a simple question: "What's in your hand?" "A staff", he tells God... Well over the next 40 years, God uses that simple wooden stick to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh, to open the Red Sea, to win a battle with the Amalekites, to bring water from a rock. As Moses learns to use in faith what God has put in his hand, his life is changed and with it, the course of world history.

When Jesus see the hungry crowd, he asked the disciples to feed them. Seeing their rising panic, Jesus asks them to look at what they have. All they can put their hands on are a handful of tuna sandwiches. Jesus, ignoring their unbelief, takes the bread and the fish, gives thanks for the offering and feeds thousands.

It seems to me, that's often how God gets His work done. Simply by normal, often weak people, looking to what they have been given, offering to Jesus what they have and watching on as remarkable things start to happen.

So perhaps the question to you is this: what has God put in your hand? If you wonder how God might use you, offer to God what He has given you, no matter how simple or seemingly insignificant, and God will use it — sometimes supernaturally — to do His remarkable work to His praise and glory.

Love Tim

## Things to do

**Coffee Morning Wednesday 10am-noon**  
Parish Hall, St Matthew's. Drop in for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat. All welcome!

**Lunch and Natter - 12noon Parish Hall, St Matthew's, Wednesday 4th May (also 1st June and 6th July)**

An informal and friendly lunch, followed by a talk or film (for those who would like to stay!) Lunch served at 12.30pm. Contributions of £5 invited. Bring a friend for free! To secure your place, transport or more information, call Trudy on 07732 626986 or Hayley on 01225 938482.

**Widcombe Association Art Trail, 14th & 15th May - venues all around Widcombe**  
50 local artists display (and sell) their work at venues all around the parish. More details at [www.widcombeartrail.com](http://www.widcombeartrail.com).

**St Thomas open afternoons on Sundays from 2.30-5.30pm, May - September**  
The church is kept open for visitors.

## PCC members

Following the APCM in April, there are a few changes to report:

**Churchwardens for St Thomas**

Angie Frith and Sian Lewis

**Chapelwardens for St Matt's**

Andrew Udale-Smith and Bill James

**Treasurer**

Mark Nish

The meeting thanked Jill Oldham who stepped down from Churchwarden after the maximum 6 terms but is going to continue as an assistant warden.

**Organ Recital at St Matthew's in memory of Bea Mattingly, Wednesday 18th May**

A rare chance to hear the wonderful Victorian organ played by Dr Peter King, Director of Music, Bath Abbey.

Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on door, to include a glass of wine and light refreshments. Profits towards the organ restoration fund and a local charity.

## Opportunities to get involved

**Art Trail Cafe, 14th & 15th May**

Angie Frith is coordinating the Café at St Matt's which we always run during the WA Art Trail. This is a lot of fun meeting people and is always a fantastic fund raiser for the church. If you can help by baking cakes or serving in the kitchen, please let Angie Frith know as soon as possible (tel: 447005, email: [ajfrith@btinternet.com](mailto:ajfrith@btinternet.com)).

**Christian Aid Week 15th-21st May**

Helpers needed to distribute and collect envelopes around the parish - helpers cover one or two streets each. Contact Sara at [sarahelmwrites@gmail.com](mailto:sarahelmwrites@gmail.com)

**Keep the date free:** Wednesday 8th June, Afternoon Tea, 3-5pm, at St Matthew's, to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

## In our prayers this month:

Please continue to pray for Tegan Lloyd Williams in Nepal. Her latest prayer letter is on the notice boards in both churches.

*If you like praying with other people, there is a prayer meeting at 7.30-8am, Tuesdays, in the church office.*



**St. Matt's**

Pastorate at St Matt's 4th and 25th May  
Life Hubs in homes around the parish on 11th and 18th May

**Pastorate  
&  
Life Hubs**



**St Thomas  
à Becket**

**Parish Communion**

Thursday 12noon  
12th, 26th May

## Sunday Services May 2016

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>1st May</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
6th Sunday of Easter	5.30-7.30pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>8th May</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship		
7th Sunday of Easter	5.30-7.30pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>15th May</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
Pentecost	5.30-7.30pm	City Celebration Service (Art Trail & café open all day)		 St. Matt's
<b>22nd May</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	Team Service	
Trinity Sunday	No service	SMAD - St Matt's Away Day		 St. Matt's
<b>29th May</b>	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Chris Born with Paul Alkazraji	 St Thomas à Becket
1st Sunday after Trinity	5.30-7.30pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's

Join us for tea and coffee after the 10.30am service every Sunday

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## OUR CHURCHES



St Thomas à Becket  
Church Street  
Bath  
BA2 6AZ



St Matthew's  
Widcombe Hill  
Bath  
BA2 6AA

### **Contact us**

If you have any general queries about services, opening times, or any other matters, please see our website [www.widcombe.church](http://www.widcombe.church)

Vicar: Revd Tim Buckley 07810 543209 ([vicar@widcombe.church](mailto:vicar@widcombe.church))

Churchwardens St Thomas à Becket: Angela Frith (447005) and Sian Lewis (312319)  
Chapelwardens St Matthew's: Andrew Udale-Smith (319788) and Bill James (331103)

***To book our buildings or for information about getting married, baptisms or to make donations please contact the office:***

Parish Administrator: Mary Udale-Smith ([admin@widcombe.church](mailto:admin@widcombe.church))

Church Office, St Matthew's Church, Widcombe Hill, Bath, BA2 6AA

Email: [admin@widcombe.church](mailto:admin@widcombe.church)

Phone: 01225 465065 (answer service out of hours)



We extend a warm welcome to the Orthodox and Lutheran congregations who also meet in our Widcombe churches

### **The Orthodox Parish of Saint John of Kronstadt**

Services at St Matthew's:

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Sunday Divine Liturgy 10.30am.

[www.bath-orthodox.org.uk](http://www.bath-orthodox.org.uk)

### **The German Lutheran Church**

Occasional services at St Thomas à Becket  
[www.evsynode.org.uk/bristol.html](http://www.evsynode.org.uk/bristol.html)

The next service will be on 5 June.

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