



Widcombe  
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

## Newsletter July 2016

The other day, one of my children wrote a really sweet letter to me and left it on my desk for me to read when I got back from work late one evening. I won't share the content but it got me thinking about how rarely these days we communicate to one another in this way.

A letter is personal, often reflective and considered. It is also something tangible which can be touched, kept and read over and over again. I dare say some of you reading this may have cards, notes or even love letters stashed away somewhere, which carry enormous sentimental value and memories. To receive a letter or note from a loved one is a deeply precious, though increasingly lost, art. Remarkably my mother committed to send a weekly written letter to myself and my three other brothers from the moment we left home for university – this week's arrived yesterday. For me alone, that's approaching one and half thousand letters – and my oldest brother is 11 years older than me. That's a lot of ink and a lot of love!

And as I pondered what note to write back to my child, I strangely began to think what I would like to have had written to me as a young child trying to make sense of an exciting, yet confusing and often scary world:

To be told that I was precious, unique and special. That I should explore, question and marvel at the wonders around me. To be encouraged to abundantly give, to be thankful for every good thing, to cherish friendship and to be kind and quick to forgive wherever and whenever possible. I would have wanted someone to tell me that success can't simply be measured by academic prowess and qualifications but rather more importantly by the quality of a person's heart and soul - and that whatever happens in life, there is always hope, always light and always love.

I would want to be told to work hard but also play really hard, that failure is a bruise not a tattoo, to dream big, to laugh lots and to love endlessly. And finally, above all, to never forget that there is a God who had me in mind at the beginning of time and wove me together perfectly in my mother's womb who will never stop loving me, never stop reaching out and never stop offering His grace and mercy.

... And then of course, as I'm typing these thoughts as they tumble out of my head, I happen to glance across my somewhat shambolic desk and stare straight at my Bible and in that moment realise that the letter had already been written to me all those years ago. It was written by a Father who loved me, knew what I need to hear and really just wanted me to know it - and like my mum, hoped I would read it, be excited and thankful about it and eventually respond!

So thanks so much, Mum, for the letters, I'll drop you an email. Love Tim x :o)

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[www.widcombe.church](http://www.widcombe.church)

## NOTICES

The PCC is looking for a new Foundation Governor for Widcombe Junior School from September. Anyone who might be interested or knows someone suitable please contact Angie Frith (tel 447005 or email [ajfrith@btinternet.com](mailto:ajfrith@btinternet.com)).

Thanks to everyone who delivered and collected envelopes around the parish in Christian Aid week and to the counting team. We raised the excellent sum of £1,433.73.

## For your prayers this month

Pray for all the couples getting married at St Thomas in July, for the preparations and for their new lives together: Liz Russo & Joshy Easaw and David Quine & Alison Logan. Also pray for two couples from St Matt's getting married elsewhere: Jonathan Hilsden & Aurelia Bromilow, Mike Hallet & Hannah Sharland.

Please also pray for Henry Ellis and Leo Roberts and their families at their Thanksgiving service on 10 July.

Finally thank God for the safe arrival of baby Amy to Beth and Steve Forrester. Congratulations to all the family!



**St Thomas**  
à Becket

## Parish Communion

Thursday 12noon  
14th & 28th July

## THINGS TO DO

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

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

**Lunch and Natter - 12noon Parish Hall, St Matthew's, Wednesday 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.



## St. Matt's *Summer Programme* *Sundays, 5.30-7pm*

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|-------------|--|
| 24th July   | Prayer evening at St Matts for the persecuted church |
| 31st July   | Family barbecue at St Matt's                         |
| 7th August  | Pastorate-style worship and prayer at St Matt's      |
| 14th August | Church Outside, venue to be decided on the day!      |
| 21st August | Pastorate-style worship and prayer at St Matt's      |
| 28th August | Church family lunch, ask office for more details.    |

There will be no organised children's activities on these evenings but children are very welcome at all services/events.

No Life Hub programme in July or August but some groups are arranging socials - see group leaders for more information!

## Sunday Services July 2016

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>3rd July</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Revd Roger Salisbury	 St Thomas à Becket
6th after Trinity	5.30-7.30pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>10th July</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship & Thanksgivings		
	5.30-7.30pm	Celebration Service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>17th July</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5.30-7.30pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 5pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>24th July</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	Team Service	
	5.30-7pm	St Matt's Summer Programme		 St. Matt's
<b>31st July</b>	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Revd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5.30-7pm	St Matt's Summer Programme		 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 & Sian Lewis  
Chapelwardens St Matthew's: Andrew Udale-Smith & Bill James

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

Parish Administrator: Mary Udale-Smith

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

The next service will be at 12.15pm on  
2nd October.

[www.evsynode.org.uk/bristol.html](http://www.evsynode.org.uk/bristol.html)

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