



Widcombe  
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

## Newsletter October 2016

This summer, amidst the rugged beauty of mountainous rural Spain, I was again reminded of one of the many things we so easily take for granted. Late one evening after a powerful storm we experienced a complete power cut. Darkness can be both a wonderful and equally frightening thing. Few places, of course, are truly dark, although with no stars and no other nearby properties, the brooding darkness was remarkable... Thank goodness for emergency torches!

It's amazing how light transforms a place and can bring comfort and security - we so often take that light in our homes and communities for granted. Back in October 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, keeping it lit for over 13 hours... and the rest, as they say, is history.

But as well as physical darkness, there is also an emotional darkness that can envelope people, a locality or a community. You only have to watch the news, or visit war-torn, poverty-stricken areas to experience that kind of desolation. Recent images from Syria bring this truth all too painfully to mind.

My cousins are American and live in Virginia where there's a place in the south - not listed in the travel brochures - which is basically many hundreds of square miles of nothing. A highway map of the state simply shows it as a series of little squiggly symbols, and its name: "The Great Dismal Swamp"! The Great Dismal Swamp: acres and acres of wetland and water, part waste, all wild; much of it ugly, most of it useless.

Who could fall in love with anything like that? Why would anyone ever want anything to do with such a dark, barren and worthless land? Which causes me to pause and think and remember again those words from Genesis chapter 1: *"the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God brooded over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good."*

As summer turns to autumn, with evening light beginning to fade and with seemingly endless darkness daily before us in the news, may you remember Jesus, hope of the nations and be encouraged. *"For the Light shines out in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out."*

Love, Tim

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

## 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, Wednesdays 5th October and 2nd November**

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.

**Church's Network - Older People event St Matthew's, 2.30pm, Wednesday 19th October.** Sarah Williams-Martin will be speaking about the **Dementia Initiative** and Dementia Action Alliance. There will also be reports of other local initiatives for support for older people and their carers.

**Let's do it!** A concert celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Capella Nova choir. **7.30pm Friday 25th November.** In aid of Read Around Bath and the St Matthew's Regeneration Fund. Tickets £15 from [www.widcombeassociation.org/events](http://www.widcombeassociation.org/events).



**St Thomas à Becket**

## Parish Communion

Thursday 12noon  
13th & 27th October

## NOTICES

### Help with St Thomas services

If you would like to help with readings, intercessions, tea and coffee, flowers or welcoming people as a sidesperson, please let Angie or Sian know.

### Foundation Governor for Widcombe Junior School needed.

Anyone who might be interested or knows someone suitable, please contact Angie Frith (tel 447005 or email [ajfrith@btinternet.com](mailto:ajfrith@btinternet.com)).

**The search for a new organ at St Thomas has begun!** We are now actively looking into replacing our digital organ with a modern instrument which will hopefully suit our needs for many more years.

### Deep clean St Thomas for Christmas

If anyone would be willing to spare a couple of hours to get those cobwebs out of the rafters and give the whole place a good polish, we will find a suitable time to go in as a team, with cake as an added incentive! Please contact Angie.

'Teas in the Churchyard', part of the Chapel Trail in September, raised £112 in donations for the refreshments and cakes, to go to church funds. Thank you so much to everyone who helped and baked!



**St. Matt's**







**Pastorate & Life Hubs**

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm  
5th & 12th October

Life Hubs  
in homes around the parish  
19th & 26th October.

Contact office for more information

## Sunday Services October 2016

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>2nd October</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
19th after Trinity	5pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>9th October</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship & Baptism		
	20th after Trinity	5pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	
<b>16th October</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	21st after Trinity	7.30pm	Celebration Service	
<b>23rd October</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	Team Service	
	Last after Trinity	5pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	
<b>30th October</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	4th before Advent	5pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	

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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