



Widcombe  
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

## Newsletter November 2016

As a boy, growing up with three older brothers, pranks, magic tricks and other tomfoolery was a normal part of the Buckley household. I still vividly remember the time my brother and his friend put speakers under my bed and a light show in the garden to convince me, a young naive 8 year old, that aliens had landed in our Whitstable back garden. Then there was the time we convinced Grandma (a truly remarkable 90 year old) that we were moving to a house, where at the push of a button, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor moved down to the ground so you didn't have to use stairs anymore. She, to be fair, regaled us with stories of "Knock Down Ginger" in London where she grew up, with string tied between a whole street of door knockers, so they could all be pulled simultaneously. Clearly the DNA of high jinks was well established in our family.

None of this, of course, is new. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, as the nights draw in, a small band of mischief-makers in the north of England prepare for their annual night of mayhem, historically referred to as "Mischief Night" which is thought to date back to the 1700s.

Now, while jumping out of cupboards and leaving fake spiders on Grandma's toilet seat was always great fun, much of the joy in playing tricks on someone is, of course, in their falling for the prank – you might call it their naivety or inability to spot the blindingly obvious.

Someone once told me that, "Christianity was clearly the biggest con trick of all time and that Jesus, though clearly well intentioned and a great role model, was obviously just a brilliant illusionist."

So what do we make of the Christian message? As we head towards another season where Christians celebrate the coming and birth of Christ, is faith still relevant in our 21<sup>st</sup> century, globally connected, developed and seemingly enlightened western world?

C.S. Lewis said this, "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse."

In our increasingly cynical world, I'm glad that along with laughing raucously at any good prank, my Grandma, a woman of incredible faith, also taught me what it means to remain soft-hearted and trusting – one could almost say, "childlike." So how does a child receive a gift? With openness, thankfulness, and unbridled joy. That type of happy authenticity should, I think, be a hallmark of our faith as we receive and make known God's amazing gift in Christ.

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, Wednesday 2nd November, St Matthew's

An informal, friendly lunch, with 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.

Also contact them to reserve your place at the very popular **Christmas Lunch** on Tuesday 13th December! Donations for this are £6 plus please bring your own wine or soft drinks.

**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. Matt's

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm  
2nd and 30th November

Life Hubs in homes around the parish  
9th, 16th and 23rd November

Contact office for more information

## Pastorate & Life Hubs

## NOTICES

### WA Craft Fair Refreshments, St Matthew's 19th November

We will be providing refreshments again this year. Volunteers for serving on the day and/or providing soup or cakes would be really appreciated. Please contact Angie Frith if you can help.

### Delivering Christmas newsletters

We need volunteers to deliver these around the Parish before Advent Sunday, usually just one or two streets each. Please let Sian Lewis or the office know if you CANNOT do the street you covered last year or if you have never delivered newsletters and would like to start now!

### St Thomas Organ Update

We have already had visits from a couple of providers, one of whom is going to bring a demonstration model to the church on 14th November from 2pm for a couple of hours. If you would like to hear it in situ, please come along.

## Looking ahead to our Christmas services

### December

4th 5pm	Carols by Laser Light (St Matt's)
11th 5pm	Christingle service (St Matts)
18th 5pm	9 Lessons & Carols (St Thomas à Becket)
24th 11.30pm	Midnight Mass (St Thomas à Becket)
25th 10am 10.45am	Family Service Holy Communion (St Thomas à Becket)



St Thomas  
à Becket

## Parish Communion

Thursday 12noon  
3rd and 17th November

## Sunday Services November 2016

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>6<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Pat Betts	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer Remembrance Service (CW)	Rev'd Judith Harries	 St. Matt's
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		
<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>				
<b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Team Service	 St. Matt's
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		
<b>1st of Advent</b>				

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 is on 6th November

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

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