



Muhammad Ali famously once said, "I don't think it's bragging to say I'm something special." Of course to be fair, history somewhat proved him right. But what about other sports stars who seem to go from the heights of glory to the depths of despair or even obscurity; think Tiger Woods, Lance Armstrong, Mario Balotelli? Some burn out, others fall in disgrace, others simply lose form and struggle to find the "old magic" or never quite achieve the heights they "were destined for".

Confidence then is a strange thing. I was chatting to my football-crazy son Sam the other day – he's good, really good, but in a completely unassuming, humble way. And at the moment – he can't stop scoring and setting up goals for his team where he plays as a number 9 (which may well mean nothing to most of you!) Football, it seems to me, is totally a confidence game; when you're scoring, you can do no wrong. When not, everything goes wrong. Leicester City seemed to prove that last year...And indeed this year, but in a completely different way! So what about for us normal mortals?

After the crucifixion, the disciples were demoralised and miserable. All the confidence and bravado from the tumultuous noise of Palm Sunday just one week ago is now completely obliterated. Their Master, Teacher and Miracle Worker is dead - maybe they're next? Living in fear that the authorities were after them too, we're told that despite the rumours of Jesus' rising from the grave, they had locked themselves away in an upper room – hidden, defeated and lost.

You know, one of the greatest truths of Christianity, and particularly of our Easter message, is that from the depths of despair and darkness, always comes the chance of a new beginning – fresh life, fresh hope. As I said in my March musings, God "*knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust*" (Psalm 103). When God makes Adam from the dust of the earth, He then breathes life into him. When Jesus miraculously walks through the walls of that upper room to be with His demoralised, broken friends, it's amazing what He does next. Speaking tenderly to them, He again breathes on them. He knows they're shattered and wants them to experience the healing, refreshing breath of God – the Holy Spirit filling them like sails and launching them with supernatural power out into the world. Just as Jesus breathed on them, so too He longs to breathe life into our communities, our families, circumstances and individual lives.

From those shaky and nervous beginnings, the church was birthed and 2000 years later here we are, an Easter people, sometimes shaken, often weak, occasionally hiding – but never hopeless and always dependent on the breath of our resurrected Lord.

So my prayer for you all this Easter is that you and all your loved ones may experience afresh the love of God, His resurrection power and His life-transforming breath. Have a wonderful Easter!

Love, Tim, Sarah, Ellie, Sam and Jo.



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S
www.widcombe.church

NOTICES

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

Lent Lunch, 12.30pm, Parish Hall, St Matthew's, Wednesday 12th April

An informal and friendly lunch. A £5 contribution is invited, bring a friend for free! To secure your place, arrange transport or more information, call Trudy on 07732 626986.

Christian Aid week volunteers needed

If you are able to deliver/collect envelopes, from 14-20 May, please contact Sian Lewis.

Transport and parking in Widcombe

We are still in consultation with the council about new parking restrictions in Church Street. Remember anyone can park in 'Resident Permit Only' bays on a Sunday. And, if you want to find out more about the proposed cable car across Widcombe connecting Mulberry Park with the station, Curo have arranged more consultation events in April, including one on 27th April, 6.30pm at Widcombe Junior School.

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, 13th April, 7.30pm
Contemplative Service, St Thomas

Good Friday, 14th April
9am Cross Walk to Bath Abbey
(starting at St Thomas à Becket)

12noon - 3pm Reflection, St Thomas
(Please feel free to come & go as you wish)

Easter Sunday, 16th April
8am Holy Communion, St Thomas

10.30am Holy Communion, St Thomas
(refreshments served after the service)

5pm Easter Celebration
St Matthew's (café from 4.30pm)

APCM

This year's **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is on Tuesday, 25th April, 7.30pm at St Thomas. We need volunteers to replace those whose term of office on the PCC is coming to an end, so if you would like to help shape the life of our churches and are prepared to stand as a **PCC member** or **Churchwarden**, please contact Angie Frith (447005).

We are also looking for **assistant churchwardens** for St Thomas. The responsibility of running our churches is lessened when it is shared so please do give thought to whether you could volunteer this year.



St. Matt's

**Pastorate
&
Life Hubs**

No Pastorates in April. However, Life Hubs will be meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays - talk to your group leaders about Easter arrangements. To join a Life Hub, please contact the office.



**St Thomas
à Becket**

**Midweek services
all on
Thursdays**

Final Lent course - 12 noon, 6th April
Maundy Thursday contemplative service
7.30pm 13th April
Parish Communion - 12 noon, 27th April

Sunday Services April 2017

Date	Time	Service		Venue
2nd April 5th of Lent	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
9th April Palm Sunday	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship		
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
16th April Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)		
	5-7pm	Easter Celebration		 St. Matt's
23rd April Easter 2	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (CW)	Team Service	
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
30th April Easter 3	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's

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

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

Vicar: Revd Tim Buckley 07810 543209 (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

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

The German Lutheran Church

Occasional services at St Thomas à Becket
The next services will be on 4 June.

NB There is no service in Bath on 16 April, contrary to previous listings.

www.evsynode.org.uk/bristol.html
