

Recently a few of us from St Matt's attended a fabulous leadership conference in London and were privileged to stay in a small town-house in Kensington. I always forget how relentlessly busy and vibrant London is, but what most immediately struck me on this visit, was the variety and quantity of exotic 'supercars' all around – it felt like a photo-shoot for Top Trumps. Now I've always loved cars, but never before have I seen such a collection of stunning Ferraris, Porsches and Lamborghinis... Suddenly I was 10 again, dreaming of what supercar I would choose if money was no object and whether a Lamborghini would in fact be too wide to park outside St Thomas. Perhaps for most normal people, the thought of a loud, impractical and ludicrously expensive car doesn't register high on a priority list, but all of us have had other wistful daydreams, especially as children: to be a film star or rock star, or a successful sports professional. Maybe later in life the dream is to get the perfect job, the perfect house or the perfect spouse...

In Matthew 6:33, referring to our human focus and priorities, Jesus urged his followers to: "Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness." He knew what he was talking about. It's apparent from the gospels that, perhaps more than anything else he did, Jesus found time to be alone, praying to His Father and reading the scriptures. His focus then was less about doing or achieving and more about building intimacy with and dependency on His Father – it was about "being" rather than "getting". The effectiveness of this however is plain to see through the spread of God's kingdom through Jesus' words, healings, acts and compassion. How much more effective and enriching could our lives be for God, and therefore how much more inspiring to ourselves and others, if we were to prioritise seeking God's kingdom above all else?

Our dreams and longings perhaps change and evolve as we grow older and, hopefully, wiser. Priorities change as we share our lives with loved ones and maybe experience the joy and challenge of having children or grandchildren. Instead of what we can get, often we think more about what we can give, what legacy will we leave behind us? Richard Branson, when asked about how his success as a businessman might be measured in the future, his response was this: "to know if I've really been successful, don't look at me or my business ventures, look at my children."

As our Heavenly Father looks at the church today, His longing is to see a resilient, confident and loving hope-filled body of believers - children who have understood the gift of life and freedom they have been bequeathed, children who dream of seeing this kingdom inheritance grow and made known to all. Ronald Reagan, quoting Rev Henry Ward Beecher said: "There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings."

May you be truly rooted in the love of God, but always as your Creator and Father intended for you; never afraid to dream, to fly and soar for His glory.



**Widcombe**  
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S  
[www.widcombe.church](http://www.widcombe.church)

### Notices

**Many thanks** to everyone who provided delicious cakes and soup for the Art Trail cafe, as well as to all the wonderful kitchen helpers/servers. It was very successful with excellent feedback from the artists exhibiting who said we looked after them very well. It was lovely to see so many people coming through the building and we made £506.00 profits towards the St Matt's regeneration project - a marvellous team effort!

#### **Parking in Widcombe**

Please remember to park considerately when visiting our churches. N.B. Residents parking is available to all on Sundays.

#### **St Mark's Community Centre Survey**

If you live in Widcombe or use/would like to use St Mark's Community Centre, you are invited by the St Mark's Trustees to complete a survey about the hall and its potential uses. See their website for a link to the survey: [www.st-marks-cc.org.uk](http://www.st-marks-cc.org.uk)



**St. Matt's**

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm  
7th June

Life Hubs in homes around the parish on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June

Contact office for more information

**Pastorate  
&  
Life Hubs**

### Opportunities

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

**Summer Sunday opening** - St Thomas is now open for visitors from 2.30-5.30pm on Sunday afternoons.

**Widcombe Hill Open Gardens**, 2-5pm, Sunday 4 June. Savour the contrasting views from the Georgian and Victorian gardens, open in aid of Dorothy House and First Steps. Donation £5, children under 16 free. Homemade cakes. Entry: 4 Cambridge Place, Widcombe Hill.

**Farewell to Ven Andy Piggott**, our Archdeacon, who is retiring. There will be a farewell service, open to all, at 7pm, 26th June, Bath Abbey. The PCC will be giving a card and donation on behalf of the parish as we are indebted to Andy's help and support over the years.

**The new St Thomas organ** is hopefully due to be installed at the end of July. Nearly all of the money needed has been kindly donated, but we still need around £900. If you would like to help close the gap, please label your gift 'St Thomas organ fund'. We will also be holding a fund-raising concert after its installation.

### **For your prayers this month:**

Evelyn Lord and her family as she is baptised on 4th June.

Cassandra Dodgson and Alexander O'Neill getting married at St Thomas on 24th June.



**St Thomas  
à Becket**

**Parish Communion**

Thursday 12noon  
1st, 15th and 29th June

## Sunday Services June 2017

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>4th June</b> Pentecost	10.30am	Sung Eucharist & Baptism (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>11th June</b> Trinity 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
<b>18th June</b> Trinity 1	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>25th June</b> Trinity 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

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 and Sian Lewis

**Chapelwardens St Matthew's:** Bill James and Andrew Udale-Smith  
Church Office, St Matthew's Church, Widcombe Hill, Bath, BA2 6AA

**Phone:** 01225 465065 (answer service out of hours)

### **For information about Life Hubs, getting married, baptism or giving:**

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

### **To make bookings, volunteer or let us know how we can support your community activities:**

Community Administrator: Tamsin McMaster ([community@widcombe.church](mailto:community@widcombe.church))



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 services will be on 4th June and 2nd July.

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

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