

As April turns to May, plans for our wonderful new Wyvern Cantata 226 replacement organ at St Thomas à Becket move a step closer. Much of the money has already been raised (although any donations to help conclude our fundraising will be greatly appreciated!) Of course, buying and installing a new organ is more than simply facilitating a beautiful sound, it's actually primarily a means of enhancing our worship, worship that for approaching 1000 years has been taking place on that site in one format or another. Worship is key to our shared faith and central in our affirmation and declaration of the God we know and follow.

Ralph Martin, author of *Worship in the Early Church* says, "The Christian church was born in song." Indeed, soon after the turn of the 1st century, the pagan historian Pliny reported that Christians gathered at dawn to sing a hymn, "to Christ as God." Ignatius and Clement, from the same period, encouraged early Christians to sing with one voice as they met together.

Many of you have heard of Canon Andrew White, better known as "the Vicar of Baghdad". His story is as inspirational as it is moving. Since he started working in Baghdad in 1998, he has offered a unique insight on life in one of the world's most turbulent and unsettling countries, with a church that has endured epic suffering. More recently the brutal expansion of Islamic State militants has given rise to unimaginable persecution amongst many of our brothers and sisters across the Middle East. Yet, remarkably, worshipping communities continue to exist and even thrive under these conditions. Cannon White is quoted as saying, "When you have nothing - as our people have nothing - then Jesus is all you've got."

Andrew continues by saying, "And I tell people to sing. It's absolutely key. When you have nothing, you have to praise God. It's the praising of God that keeps us going..."

Worship then is the voice of hope. It's a declaration that God is good even when life isn't. It may be a lament, or an inspirational reminder to our hearts of the nature and qualities of our Redeemer, but it is a song that must be expressed and one that must be heard. And whether it's a contemporary song made possible through a gifted band of musicians such as those that lead worship at St Matts, or a beautifully crafted piece of music played alone or joined by congregational voices made possible by the gloriously rich sound of a fabulous organ – we want it to be the best it can be; sumptuous, vibrant, inspiring, rich and uplifting - worthy of our glorious God...

I for one can't wait to hear our new organ joining with the angels and filling St Thomas with a new sound to the glory of our God.



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

### Opportunities

#### **Widcombe Art Trail Saturday 13th May and Sunday 14 May**

Once again St Matthews will be a key venue in the Art Trail and we have the opportunity to raise funds by serving teas, coffee, cakes and soup. We will need volunteers to serve at the counter on both days as well as offers of cakes and soup. If you are able to help, Angie or Sian would be delighted to hear from you! (Tel: 312319 or [sianmlewis@aol.co.uk](mailto:sianmlewis@aol.co.uk))

#### **'Songs of Praise' at Widcombe Baptist Church, Tuesday 23rd May at 11.00am**

This event is designed to be especially appropriate for older people, including those living with dementia and their carers. It is intended that the event will be dementia-friendly.

#### **Coffee Morning Wednesday 10am-noon**

Parish Hall, St Matthew's. Drop in for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat. All welcome!



**St. Matt's**

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm  
3rd May

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

Contact office for more information

**Pastorate  
&  
Life Hubs**

### NOTICES

#### **Christian Aid week volunteers needed**

If you are able to deliver and collect envelopes in one or more streets in the parish, in the week 14th-20th May, please contact Sian Lewis. Collectors' packs will be put in the porch at St Thomas or in the office for St Matt's.

#### **Transport and parking in Widcombe**

Please remember to park considerately when visiting our churches and also that residents parking is available to all on Sundays. In other news, the Widcombe Association are consulting with residents about the proposed cable car across the parish. To comment online: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2017WAcablecar>

### **PCC news**

Following the APCM on 25th April, the following appointments are confirmed:

#### **Churchwardens for St Thomas**

Angie Frith and Sian Lewis

#### **Chapelwardens for St Matt's**

Bill James and Andrew Udale-Smith

#### **Treasurer**

Mark Nish

We also welcome **Alison Furber** and **Trudy Healey** as our new Deanery Synod representatives. We would like to express our thanks to Chris and Carol Tottle, who have stepped down after many years much-appreciated service!

**Anne Lawson, Louise Sturgess** and **Haydn Wilkins** have joined the PCC.

Finally thanks to Beth Forrester and Nathan Ovens, who have also stepped down, for their contributions over the last two years.



**St Thomas  
à Becket**

**Parish Communion**

Thursday 12noon  
4th and 18th May

## Sunday Services May 2017

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>7th May</b> Easter 4	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service & baptism (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>14th May</b> Easter 5	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>21st May</b> Easter 6	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>28th May</b> Easter 7	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	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 service will be on 4th June.

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

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