

With the clocks having gone back at the end of October, darkness falls so much earlier now. Those long summer days, when it was still light at 10pm, seem very distant and even with lasting mild weather, there's an increasing chill in the air as winter arrives. And, in just a few more weeks, we'll be well and truly into the Christmas season where I'm sure for you, like me, December becomes a blur of busyness! I often tend to think of November as a lull before the storm - a moment of quiet before the Christmas rush.

November is the month of remembering - from All Souls to Remembrance Sunday. As the leaves fall from the trees and the poppies from the ceiling of the Albert Hall, in stillness, we remember those who have gone before. And, of course, it's in a moment of quiet silence that we pause on Remembrance Day and at our service on Remembrance Sunday at St Thomas à Becket (**12th Nov, 10.30am**) to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for the freedom of others.

Euripides, the Greek poet, said, around 450BC: *"Silence is true wisdom's best reply."* Yet the truth for many people is that - in our busy, noisy relentless world - finding even stillness, let alone silence, becomes increasingly difficult and can often feel unnatural or uncomfortable. Yet silence - space to pause, reflect and breathe - is, I believe, important for us all. It's often in this quiet space that we begin to see and hear God more clearly above the cacophony of our noisy lives.

Mother Teresa put it powerfully: *"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."* Our western, city lives, increasingly mean we have a tendency to fill every second with noise or busyness - but sometimes we simply need to be SILENT in order to LISTEN. It's in those moments of quiet, having found some space and stillness, that this month we might perhaps be encouraged to simply spend time in God's presence. 'LISTEN' is an anagram of 'SILENT' and it's often in the silence that we can hear more clearly the heartbeat and voice of God.

I wonder when did you last pause, or make space to silently listen to God? As we head towards Advent, it might be good to rediscover the joy and discipline of putting time aside to simply wait on Him. Why not, this month, make space in your diary, whether at home, in the garden or out on a country walk, to just be still, be silent and listen for the Master's voice?

Have a wonderful November.

Love Tim, Sarah, Ellie, Sam and Joseph



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

NOTICES

Thank you for the music!

A full house was treated to a superbly entertaining recital by Jules Addison, together with sopranos Luana Godwin and Shelly Richman, to celebrate the installation of our new Wyvern organ. The retiring collection raised £260 for the new PA system and we are very grateful to Jules, Luana and Shelly for sharing their time and talents with us.

Harvest Collection

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our Harvest collection. A large carful of food was donated to Genesis.

500th ANNIVERSARY of REFORMATION

Ecumenical service together with the Lutheran Church, 10.30am, Sunday 5th November, at St Thomas

We are delighted to be able to hold a joint communion service in English and German to celebrate the Reformation.



St. Matt's

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm
1st November

Life Hubs in homes around the parish
on Tuesdays/Wednesdays in November

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!

Christmas Newsletter

We will be distributing the Christmas Parish Newsletter with information about all our Christmas services to every household within the parish early in December. If you can help distribute them in one or two streets near where you live, please let the churchwardens know!

Christmas Lunch, 6th December Parish Hall, St Matthew's

Our very popular Christmas lunch. To reserve your place, arrange transport or for more information, call Trudy on 07732 626986. Donations invited to cover the cost, £6 per person suggested.

Looking ahead to our Christmas services

December

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 10th 5pm | Carols by Laser Light
(St Matt's) |
| 17th 5pm | Live Nativity - come in
costume! Starts at St
Matts and ends else-
where... |
| 24th 10.30 am | 9 Lessons & Carols
(St Thomas à Becket) |
| 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
2nd, 16th & 30th
November

Sunday Services November 2017

Date	Time	Service		Venue
5th November All Saints Day	10.30am	Ecumenical Communion with Lutheran Church	Revd Tim Buckley & Revd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
12th November Remembrance Sunday	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Remembrance Service	Revd Judith Harries	
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
19th November 2nd Sunday before Advent	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Revd Judith Harries & Revd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
26th November Christ the King	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship & Baptism	Revd Tim Buckley	
	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)

Curate: Revd Jenny Buckler 01225 612244 (curate@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)

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

Community Administrator: Tamsin McMaster (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

The German Lutheran Church

Occasional services at St Thomas à Becket
The next service will be a joint Ecumenical Service with St Thomas, at 10.30am, on 5th November.
www.ev-synode.org.uk/bristol.html
