

Parish Newsletter
April 2018

Letter from the vicar



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

Fake news! Everywhere I seem to turn I keep hearing about fake news. Two years ago it was a phrase seemingly unheard of – now we're told it's one of the greatest threats to democracy, free speech and open debate. Of course, despite what Donald Trump tells us, it's actually not a new phenomenon, and although its reach has now been greatly extended by the use of new communication technology, it clearly isn't something simply birthed by social media and the invention of internet. Both Governments and powerful individuals have used information and rumour as a weapon since humans first learned to communicate. It's been used to quash rebellion, spin misinformation, challenge prevailing views and boost popularity.

However, part of the problem of this phrase now appearing everywhere and challenging any contrary view point to its own, is that we're often left wondering if the accusation of "fake news", is actually itself fake news?! All sorts of things – conspiracy theories, lies, spin, mistakes, and reporting that people just don't like – are rolled into it, often leaving people not knowing who to believe or trust any more.

...And into the midst of all this global scepticism, falls our Easter story.

For the first time since 1956, Easter Sunday (when we remember Christ's resurrection) lands on April 1 - April Fool's Day! For pub quiz buffs, this won't happen again until 2029.

Certainly the truth of this resurrected Christ terrified the ruling powers. Matthew's gospel, in chapter 28, gives us insight into their "fake news" idea, *"They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed."*

So was the resurrection story all a trick, a hoax, a well-planned narrative to cover the disappointment of Jesus's death? Certainly, Frank Morison, a journalist and cynical sceptic, thought so and set about proving that Christ's resurrection was merely a longstanding myth by writing a book about his gathered evidence. However, the more he delved into the facts, the more of a believer he became, finally coming to the dramatic conclusion that this man Jesus, crucified at the age of 33 by the Roman authorities, did indeed physically rise from the dead. The book is called "Who moved the stone?"

Perhaps in the marketplace, Easter bunnies and eggs seem to win "hands down" over Christ, the cross of Calvary, and the empty tomb. But this Easter let's again share the truth and remember we have "**Great News!**" Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the Life."* (John 11:25) He is the source of both. Jesus does more than give life; He is life, and that's why death has no power over Him, and for those who trust in Him we too share in His magnificent triumph over death.

Have a wonderful Easter!



Widcombe

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www.widcombe.church

NOTICES

Advance notice for the APCM, 7.30pm, Tuesday 24th April, St Matthew's

There will be a vacancy for a Churchwarden for St Thomas from April as Angie Frith will be stepping down. If you would be interested in finding out more about the role, with a view to standing for election, please talk to Angie, Sian or Tim. We also need one volunteer for the PCC, preferably from St Thomas to keep the balance between the two congregations.

Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May

We are committed to supporting Christian Aid and its many campaigns to overcome poverty and injustice around the world. As in previous years we will be collecting around the Parish and calling on our collectors to help. If you are already a collector and you are able to do so again, there is no need to do anything at this stage. If you are a collector and want to change roads or are not available this year, please contact Sian. If you'd like to volunteer this year, then Sian will be delighted to hear from you. Packs will be available in church from the end of April.
sianmlewis@aol.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Coffee Morning every Wednesday

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

Easter Flowers - Anyone who would like to help with Easter flowers at St Thomas' would be most welcome to come along at 10.30 on Easter Saturday (31st March). Gifts of greenery and daffodils helpful but not compulsory! Coffee and cake provided!

Widcombe Art Trail – Saturday and Sunday 19-20th May

We have the opportunity to fundraise at this event again this year and we hope you can spare us an hour or so to help serve refreshments in St Matt's. We are looking for contributions of cakes, bakes and homemade soup. Please have a chat with Angie or Sian to go on the volunteer list – the more the merrier. Full details in the May newsletter but please save the date.

Summer Sunday opening - St Thomas will be open for visitors from 2.30-5.30pm on Sunday afternoons.

from May until September. If you are available on the occasional Sunday afternoon to church-sit and welcome visitors, please see Angie Frith.



**St Thomas
à Becket**

Parish Communion

Thursday 12 noon
12th April & 3rd May






St. Matt's

**Pastorate
&
Life Hubs**

Pastorate on 25th April, 7.30 pm

Life Hubs usually meet in homes around the parish on Tuesdays & Wednesdays - for more information about joining a Life Hub, please contact the office.

Sunday Services April 2018

Date	Time	Service		Venue
1st April Easter	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)		
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
8th April 2nd Sunday of Easter	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
15th April 3rd Sunday of Easter	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
22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter	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
29th April 5th Sunday of Easter	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)

Curate: Revd Jenny Buckler 01225 612244 (curate@widcombe.church)

If Tim and Jenny are unavailable, Revd Judith Harries can be contacted on 01225 332418.

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 services will be on 6th May and 1st July.

www.ev-synode.org.uk/bristol.html
