



As February ended, so too did the 23<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympics. It has provided some memorable scenes. Perhaps you remember the amazing 1218 illuminated drones for the opening ceremony flying above the darkened slopes and morphing into the iconic intertwined rings, or the remarkable images of athletes from two Koreas marching as one into the stadium under a flag of unification, or maybe the German and Canadian two-man bobsleigh teams both winning gold medals after posting exactly the same time.

It often seems that Olympians are a breed set apart. Certainly, their training, dedication and relentless focus appears beyond most of us normal mortals. Yet I think we can all learn a lot from their experiences. Here's just a flavour of some of the inspiring quotes I've heard over the years: "I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed," (Double Olympic basketball champion Michael Jordan); Nadia Comaneci, gold-medal gymnast said, "I don't run away from a challenge because I am afraid. Instead, I run toward it because the only way to escape fear is to trample it beneath your feet," and Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time said, "You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the further you get."

Interestingly, the Bible too is packed with inspirational verses that speak of the kind of training and discipline required to become a victor:

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees."* Heb 12:11-13

*"If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules."* 2 Tim 2: 5

*"All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified."* 1 Cor 9:25-27

I may never get to stand on an Olympic podium or have the physique and speed of Usain Bolt, but after being inspired by amazing sportsmen and women, I want to commit again to press ahead into all that God has for me and our church family, losing any spiritual flab, and toning those spiritual muscles!

St Paul says in Philippians, "I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Have a great March, love Tim, Sarah, Ellie, Sam and Jo



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

## EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday, 29th March, 7.30pm**  
Contemplative Service, St Matthew's

**Good Friday, 30th March**

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, 1st 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)

## OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Band of Pilgrims** This fantastic local band are holding an acoustic music evening at St Thomas, 7.30pm Saturday 24th March, in aid of the St Matt's regeneration appeal (donations invited).



St Thomas  
à Becket

## Parish Communion

Thursday 12 noon  
1st and 15th March

## 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 13th-19th May.**

We are very grateful to Sara Helm for co-ordinating the distribution and collection of the door-to-door envelopes for many years. She now needs to step down so we are looking for someone who would take this on. If you would like to know more, Sara is happy to be contacted on sarahelmwrites@gmail.com or contact one of the Churchwardens to volunteer.

**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. Matt's

**Pastorate  
&  
Life Hubs**

No Pastorates at St Matt's in March  
Life Hubs in homes around the parish  
on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.  
Contact office for more information

## Sunday Services March 2018

Date	Time	Service		Venue
<b>4th March</b>	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
Third Sunday in Lent	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>11th March</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
Mothering Sunday	10.30am	Family Worship		
	5-7pm	Contemporary service & baptisms (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>18th March</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
Fifth Sunday in Lent	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
<b>25th March</b>	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
Palm Sunday	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Team Service	
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		

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))

**Curate:** Revd Jenny Buckler 01225 612244 ([curate@widcombe.church](mailto: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](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 1st April and 6th May.

[www.ev-synode.org.uk/bristol.html](http://www.ev-synode.org.uk/bristol.html)

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