

Parish Newsletter May 2018

Letter from the curate



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

I am writing this on the warmest day of 2018 so far and, whilst I cannot predict what “treats” the weather will be delivering on the day you read this, we are assuredly out of the winter season. Forgive me if you are now rolling your eyes as you peer out the window! Our gardens have transitioned from the resting and waiting of winter through this time of opening buds and blossom before the summer fruitfulness and subsequent harvest. It’s a time of energy, life and anticipation.

I also spent the winter months hidden away, resting and waiting. As many know, I suffered from a relapse of chronic fatigue, which left me incapacitated for several months. Thank you for your prayers and care through that challenging, but spiritually deep, season.

It did give me opportunity to once again muse over my absolute favourite flower: the humble snowdrop. Emerging in January-February, it is known as the last flower of winter. The first flowers of spring, like the daffodil, signify new life. The snowdrop therefore is the floral symbol of hope and encouragement of that promised new life to come. It quietly and unassumingly promises that the winter will end even though there are few signs of new life around.



The snowdrop thrives in the apparently hopeless environment of those cold and dark months.

In our own lives, it is similarly in those challenging seasons that we need hope. House-bound with fatigue, it would have been easy to look at my circumstances and give in to despair and fear. God used the snowdrop to encourage me to hold on to the hope I live by: the hope of everlasting life in Christ Jesus because He has conquered the power of sickness, shame and death by dying with them and then rising victorious over them. The trouble will come to an end. We celebrate this new resurrection life at Easter.



As a church during May we go on to celebrate Christ’s Ascension (returning in body and Spirit to His heavenly throne) and then Pentecost ten days later. Before He ascends, Jesus promises to send the helper, counsellor, encourager known as the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is another season of promise and waiting with hope. This time the hope is of receiving the Holy Spirit into our own lives to bring transformation, fullness of life and fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) whoever we are, whatever we’ve done and no matter what our circumstances feel like. Have hope in the promise!

Love Jenny



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

PCC news

Following the APCM on 24th April, the following appointments are confirmed:

Churchwardens for St Thomas

Sian Lewis and Liz Holden-White

Chapelwardens for St Matt's

Bill James and Andrew Udale-Smith

Treasurer

Mark Nish

PCC Members

Lindsaye Dunn

Anne Lawson

Martin Geake (chair SMART committee)

Trudy Healey (secretary)

Jonathan Potter

Louise Sturgess

Haydn Wilkins

Clergy members

Revd Tim Buckley

Revd Jenny Buckler

Deanery synod representatives

Trudy Healey

Alison Furber

The financial report will be put on the website in due course



St. Matt's

**Pastorate
&
Life Hubs**

Pastorate at St Matt's 7.30pm, 23rd May

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

Contact office for more information

Opportunities

Thy Kingdom Come

7.30pm, 10th May at Bath Abbey

As part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative for prayer for the nation, Bath Abbey is hosting an evening of worship, inspiration and prayer with Simon Ponsoby and Bishop Ruth.

Christian Aid week volunteers

There are still streets in the parish not covered by collectors, so if you are able to deliver and collect envelopes in one or more streets in the parish, in the week 13 - 19 May, please contact Jenny Buckler. Collectors' packs will be put in the porch at St Thomas or in the office for St Matt's.

Widcombe Art Trail Saturday

Once again St Matthews will be a venue in the Art Trail and we have the opportunity to raise funds by serving teas, coffee and cakes. We still need a few volunteers to serve at the counter on both days as well as offers of cakes. If you are able to help, please contact Fiona (fionacoverdale@talktalk.net)

Bath Foodbank is looking for voluntary helpers in various roles. If you would be interested, to find out more, please contact tharris.bathfb@gmail.com.

Notices

Coffee Morning Wednesday 10am-noon

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








**St Thomas
à Becket**

Parish Communion

Thursday 12noon
3rd, 17th and 31 May

Sunday Services May 2018

Date	Time	Service		Venue
6th May Easter 6	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
13th May Easter 7	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Caroline O'Neill	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
20th May Pentecost	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
27th May Trinity Sunday	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 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

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: Sian Lewis and Liz Holden-White

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 Lutheran congregation who meet occasionally at St Thomas a Becket. Their next services will be on 6th May and 1st July.

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