

Parish Newsletter
January 2020

Letter from the Curate



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

May I wish you a HAPPY NEW...

...MMXX

...20th year of the third millennium

...20th year of the 21st century

...decade

...(leap) Year!

This is the year that will celebrate the 200th anniversaries of the births of Florence Nightingale and Beethoven, whilst it's 500 years since the death of Renaissance Master, Raphael. It will also be 75 years since some significant WWII events, including the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan – coincidentally the host country of the 2020 Olympic Games. And just in case you were having withdrawal pangs from any political campaigning, this year also promises a Presidential election in the USA – no further comment!

In one perspective, the date in time is arbitrary. We are much the same on Wednesday 1st January 2020 as we were on Tuesday 31st December 2019 and if there were any change it would be unrelated to the calendar – except in accounting for a few sore heads, I guess! And yet, the New Year inevitably has the effect of lifting our gaze, even momentarily, from our day-to-day rhythm to look towards the horizon. We are prompted to extend our perspective, to look beyond the now, to what might be possible across a larger timescale. Depending on the prospect, we may be filled with foreboding or excitement. As the year 2020 opens a new decade too, we may choose to dream beyond the horizon.

Whilst looking ahead, remembering past anniversaries serves as a reminder of the good times and the endurance through adversity that will undoubtedly be evident in every year to come too. God's people in the Bible held to the spiritual discipline of recalling anniversaries to repeatedly remind them of God's faithfulness, provision and deliverance: His good shepherding of them. He was good in the past, good today, and will be enduringly good regardless of what the future holds.

In Parish life this year, the room above the office will have been transformed by the end of this month (come and take a look!) and it is envisaged that this will be a foretaste of what can be accomplished in the regeneration of the St Matt's church building. We can glean confidence from God's faithfulness in providing for regeneration of both St Thomas a Becket and St Matt's churches in the past, to give us hope for His provision now and in the future.

As we begin this year, we begin having just recalled God with us: Emmanuel. And by His Spirit, He will be with us until the end of the age, remaining our faithful deliverer and perfect provider.

May I wish each of you a blessed new year, and new decade!

With love from Jenny x



Widcombe

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www.widcombe.church

DATES FOR 2020

Thursday group meets on 16th and 30th January at Liz Holden-White's house, 2:30pm. Contact Liz for details.

Lent Lunch course on Thursdays 1pm starting 27th February, for 6 weeks. Speak to Jenny or Tim for more information.

Widcombe Women's ministry with breakfast. 9:30-12noon, Saturday 8th February, St Matt's parish hall.

Prayer for the City - Gather together to pray for the City of Bath. Bath Abbey, 25th February.

THANK YOU!

A really BIG thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas lunch such a happy and successful occasion, and to all those who helped organise and help with the Christmas services in the parish.



Bring your knitting, crochet or other craft projects to The Ring O Bells, Widcombe, to enjoy your craft in company over a drink or two! 20th January, 7:30pm.

OPPORTUNITIES

Coffee Morning every Wednesday 10.30am-noon. St Matt's, Parish hall. Drop in for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat. All ages welcome!

Life Hubs - If you would like to join a Life Hub, for members of both congregations, please contact Tamsin in the office for more information.

Every other Thursday we meet at St Thomas to pray for the parish and the church members' prayer requests. Please do join us at **11:30am** on **9th** and **23rd of January**.

Declare his glory among

THE NATIONS, HIS MARVELOUS
DEEDS AMONG ALL PEOPLES.

PSALM 96:3

SAVE THE DATE

Widcombe parish BIG day out!
June 6th 2020

Mid-week meetings in 2020

Life Hubs start back from 21st January, in homes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. See Life hub leaders for more information.

Pastorate meets for the first time in the new year on Wednesday 15th January, St Matt's, 7:30pm.

Parish Prayer 8am every Tuesday at St Matt's.

Parish prayer 11.30am, St Thomas Thursday 9th and 23rd January

Contact office for more information.

Sunday Services January 2020

| Date | Time | Service | | Venue |
|--|---------|--|------------------------|---|
| 5th January Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12 | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist (CW) | Revd Judith Harries |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 5-7pm | Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm) | |  St. Matt's |
| 12th January Baptism of Christ Isaiah 42:1-9 Matthew 3:13-end | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Revd Tim Buckley |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 10.30am | Family Service & baptism | Revd Tim Buckley |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 5-7pm | Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm) | |  St. Matt's |
| 19th January Epiphany 2 Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42 | 10.30am | Holy Communion (CW) | Revd Jenny Buckler |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 5-7pm | Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm) | |  St. Matt's |
| 26th January Epiphany 3 Isaiah 9:1-4 Matthew 4:12-23 | 8am | Holy Communion (BCP) | Revd Jenny Buckler |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 10.30am | Team Service (CW) | Team |  St Thomas à Becket |
| | 10:30am | Morning Service (Doors open from 10am) | |  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 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: Liz Holden-White and Sue Wiggin

Chapelwardens St Matthew's: Bill James and Andrew Udale-Smith

Widcombe Parish Office, St Matthew's Church, Widcombe Hill, Bath, BA2 6AA

Phone: 01225 465065 (answerphone service out of hours)

For information about getting married, baptism or giving:

Parish Administrator: Samantha Forrester (admin@widcombe.church)

For bookings, volunteering, Life hubs or community activities:

Community Administrator: Tamsin McMaster (community@widcombe.church)

Parish Intern: Sarena Matheson (intern@widcombe.church)



We extend a warm welcome to **The German Lutheran Church** who hold occasional services at St Thomas à Becket.

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