

Parish Newsletter
February 2020

Letter from the Vicar



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

“Once upon a time”... four simple yet, for most of us, magical words transporting us straight back to our childhoods. This February, the first week of the month, sees the National Storytelling Week celebrated in clubs, theatres, museums, schools and hospitals up and down the length of the country. With stories of daring adventures, heart-rending tragedies and comic tales magically weaved to fascinate and intrigue, I’m again reminded of the power of a good story to captivate hearts and minds.

We all love stories. I love to tell them. In fact, I think storytelling is part of our DNA, part of what it is to be human because we were made in the image of the Original Storyteller – God. For me, Jesus was the greatest storyteller of all time. He told astounding stories packed with meaning and significance using humour, intrigue, exaggeration, shock and pathos. These stories resonated with Christ’s audience at the time. They were totally relevant to their everyday lives, concerns, questions and most importantly carried lifechanging truth with their timeless eternal insight.

Dr. Simon J. Kistemaker, an American theologian and writer wrote this: *“By using open-ended parables, Jesus drew His listeners into real-life situations and presented them with the need for a decision on their parts. Allegory in Jesus’ parables brought people into familiar surroundings and highlighted the mercy of God toward sinners... The parables Jesus taught are timeless and universal. Throughout the centuries they have addressed and continue to address people of all ages, nationalities, and races.”*

All of the best stories are captured in the Bible and profoundly get to the heart of what life is really all about. It’s why the Bible, God’s word, is still so relevant after thousands of years. It’s the story told of people, places and events, written in many genres, by multiple scribes. Yet it has one true Author, one unifying story, and one singular theme - the Great Storyteller who wrote himself into the greatest story of all history: God becoming man. The author became incarnate, lived amongst us taking on human flesh, for you and me, in order to save us all. Good conquering evil, a dragon defeated, love triumphant. That’s why it’s the bestseller!

Yet history shows us that the story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection is historical, verifiable, and trustworthy. This is no child’s fairy-tale – it’s the real deal. It’s the greatest epic adventure, the boldest escape story, the wildest serial and the most profound love story ever told.

It is both beautiful and true. Both factual and soul-searching. Both history and story – which of course is the point, because it is after all, put simply, ‘His story’.

The Bible chronicles the history and fall of humanity and the long foretold coming of a king, a deliverer sent to save the world. The story tells of Jesus’ life, death and supernatural resurrection to save us from death: a story of a life laid down so that ours can be taken up. It’s the remarkable chronicle of our redemption, rescue, and restoration. The story of our history, healing, and hope. It is the centrepiece of all stories and the one from which all good stories draw.

Jesus embodied God’s commitment to storytelling and that story beautifully continues to be told in you – even as you read this today. So this year, may you increasingly find real joy in re-reading and resting in His word, captivated again by a story where your life is woven into the epic ongoing Greatest Story ever told.

Love Tim x



Widcombe

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www.widcombe.church

DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Thursday group meets on 13th February at Liz Holden-White's house, 2:30pm. Contact Liz for details.

Widcombe Women's ministry with breakfast. 9:30-12noon, Saturday 8th February, St Matt's parish hall. Next date for your diaries, 14th March.

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

Knit & Natter

Please note, Knit & Natter has been postponed until further notice.

Seasonal services and events

Lent Lunch course starts Thursday, 27th February 1pm, weekly for 6 weeks. Simple lunch of bread and home-made soup provided.

For catering purposes please tell Liz or Sue if you hope to come.

Ash Wednesday service, 6.00pm, at St Thomas à Becket, 26th February.

Church Day Out 2020

SAVE THE DATE

Widcombe parish BIG day out!
June 6th 2020. More details to follow.

OPPORTUNITIES

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 **6th** and **20th of February**.



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

'One Good Friday' Passion Play on Good Friday (10th April) in Parade Gardens at 12noon, repeated again at 3pm. All most welcome! There will be a group going from Widcombe parish.

Mid-week meetings in 2020

Life Hubs continue in homes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. See Life Hub leaders for information.

Pastorate meets next on Wednesday 5th February, St Matt's, 7:30pm.

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

Parish prayer 11.30am, St Thomas Thursday 6th and 20th February

Contact office for more information.

Sunday Services February 2020

Date	Time	Service		Venue
2nd February Candlemas Malachi 3:1-5 Luke 2:22-40	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
9th February 3rd Sunday before Lent Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Service	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
16th February 2nd Sunday before Lent Genesis 1:1-2:3 Matthew 6:25-end	10.30am	Joint service with Lutherans Holy Communion (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
23rd February Sunday Next before Lent Exodus 24:12-end Matthew 17:1-9	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 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
