

Parish Newsletter
March 2020

Letter from the Vicar



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

I've always had a love-hate relationship with mountains. As children, my parents often took us walking whilst on holiday. Scotland with all its moors, Munros and other mountains provided many an exhausting example. That said, I've always found them really spiritually engaging. Simply looking up at them, enjoying their sight from a distance, has never really done it for me. I've always yearned to press on, find the top and then just sit and gaze.

Early this March, as we enter Lent, I'm heading back to the mountains of Scotland around Loch Tay for 5 days. Just like Jesus did, I'm going to simply spend time walking, listening, reflecting and praying with my Heavenly Father.

In many ways, I often think it's helpful to think of Lent as a journey too. Those six weeks from Ash Wednesday (26th Feb) leading up to Easter can be a really valuable time for personal reflection and preparation for hearts and minds as we journey with Christ towards the searing pain of the cross on Good Friday, before the transforming glory of resurrection Sunday.

March also traditionally marks the beginning of Spring, with its seasonal yearning for some much-needed deep cleaning, as dusters and hoovers are broken out to remove the hidden and overlooked dust and detritus of past seasons. It's amazing the places and unseen corners that seem to attract debris, and as I get older (and as my children would say, 'sadder') I've truly discovered there's little quite as cathartic as a trip to the recycling centre with another trailer load of jettisoned junk.

Lent then, I would suggest, can be, and perhaps should be, a time for a deep spiritual spring-clean. A time to linger and dare I say it, be willing to look into some hidden corners. To be prepared to journey a bit within ourselves and allow God to bring to light some of the stuff that it may now finally be time to let go of.

A real hero of mine, King David, prayed this exceptionally wise, yet vulnerable, prayer found in one of his Psalms. Maybe you can join him?

***Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Psalm 139:23-24

The Father longs for our lives to be clean and uncluttered, not so that we look like some gleaming trophies on his mantelpiece, but rather so that we're truly free and unfettered. To '*ascend the hill of the Lord, to stand in His holy place*' (psalm 24), to bask in the fresh abundance of his goodness and love, and embrace the vista from the mountain-top of his amazing grace. Now that, to me, really is a journey worth making.

***I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.***

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



Widcombe

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www.widcombe.church

DATES FOR MARCH

Thursday group takes a short break during Lent to make way for the Lent group.

Lent group meets at 1pm at 48 Tynning End, on March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2nd. We will begin each meeting with a simple meal, so please tell Liz, Sue or Jenny if you are intending to come. Contact the office for more detail.

Widcombe Women's ministry with breakfast. 9:30-12noon, Saturday 14th March, St Matt's parish hall. Please speak to Tamsin, Jenny or the office if you're coming.

St Thomas parish prayer- During Lent we will be meeting in the church to pray for the parish at 10.30am on Friday 6 March and Friday 20th March. Please note that this a different day and time to the usual prayer meeting!

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.

EASTER EVENTS

Good Friday 10th April

'One Good Friday' Passion play in the city of Bath, Parade Gardens. 12 noon for 90 min performance which is repeated again at 3:30pm

All most welcome! There will be a group going from Widcombe parish.

Contact office for more information.

Hope for Creation in Crisis

Christian Action for the Environment in BANES Conference.

14th March, 9.30am-4pm, Southdown Methodist Centre.

Key note speaker: Rev Dr Mark Sidall. Sessions include workshops and conversation with school strikers, students, families.

Cost £5. Contact Mary Udale Smith or the office for information, or reserve a place via souterfam@aol.com

THOMAS À BECKET'S CAT AND OTHER STORIES

To commemorate the 850th year anniversary of Thomas's martyrdom, we are making a book of short stories set in the historical events, among pilgrims and in modern times.

Fancy having a go? Want to know more? Email: david@mathews.eu.com or call 07814948890 for more details.



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 4th March, St Matt's, 7:30pm.

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

Parish prayer, St Thomas
See note above for changes during Lent.

Contact office for more information.

Sunday Services March 2020

Date	Time	Service		Venue
1st March Lent 1	10.30am	Sung Eucharist (CW)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	Genesis 2:15-17 Matthew 4:1-11	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	
8th March Lent 2	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	Genesis 12:1-4a John 3:1-17	10.30am	Family Service	Rev'd Jenny Buckler
	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
15th March Lent 3	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	
22nd March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	Exodus 2:1-10 John 19:25b-27	10.30am	Team Service (CW)	Team
	10.30am	Morning service (Doors open 10am)		 St. Matt's
29th March Lent 5	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Tim Buckley	 St Thomas à Becket
	Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45	5-7pm	Contemporary Service (Toast café from 4.30pm)	

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
