

Parish Newsletter
May 2019

Letter from the vicar



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

Over the next few months, using this blog, I thought it would be a helpful idea to think about some of the defining marks of what it means to be church, for us here in Widcombe.

One of the phrases used on our parish website, to help define a little of who we are as church, is the tagline “finding family, creating community”. Family is central to all we are seeking to build and grow. Someone famously once said families are like fudge – mostly sweet with a few nuts. Indeed perhaps, many would recognise the challenges and, sometimes deep, pain that can exist within many domestic family situations. However, we believe forming church as family is central in our mandate to love and serve this community, city and beyond. As the actor Michael J. Fox believes, so we too would echo, “Family is not an important thing. It’s everything!”

Christians believe that family is the basic building block of society. The oldest of human institutions, older than the government, the church, the Patriarchs and the nations, going all the way back to those first parents, Adam and Eve. Family too is much more than simple biological lineage; it is rooted in an awesome God who exists in connected love between the relational three Persons of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The author of Genesis explains this sort of oneness when he writes *"in the image of God he created mankind, male and female he created them"* (Gen 1:27). For Genesis, it is male and female together who express the image of God, where family is created, replicating and modelling this extravagant, generous and creative God.

And this therefore is indeed great news for all. For the church of God was never intended to become an institution or organisation, an exclusive club or powerful clique – it was always supposed to simply be a family: blended, diverse, gathered, exotic, life-giving, fruitful and rooted in love. One of my favourite scriptures is found in Psalm 68:5-6 and speaks of the God we worship and serve, *“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families”*.

It is not good for man to be alone, because humanity is in the image of a relational Trinitarian God. The family portrays in flesh what God is in Spirit, and so church at its best should be a place of welcome, inclusion, encouragement, honour, challenge and growth.

Our longing is that both St Thomas à Becket and St Matt’s are places where all ages, all peoples are welcomed to explore not what it means to do church, but rather to be church, to truly become part of God’s glorious family.

Much love, Tim, Sarah, Ellie, Sam and Jo



Widcombe

ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

www.widcombe.church

NOTICES

Life Hubs - If you would like to join one of our Life Hubs, for members of both our congregations, please contact the office.

BIG THANK YOU to all who came to the Bath Community Gospel Choir concert at the end of March. A fantastic £2,500 was raised for the regeneration project at St Matt's.

NEW Thursday Group starts on the 2nd May 2:30-4pm, following on from the Lent course. A get together with short Bible study and discussion. All are welcome! Please contact Liz Holden-White for more information, lizholdenwhite@gmail.com. Sessions in May: 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Mid-week meetings in 2019

Pastorate at St Matt's, 7.30pm
Wednesday 8th May

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

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

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

Contact office for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

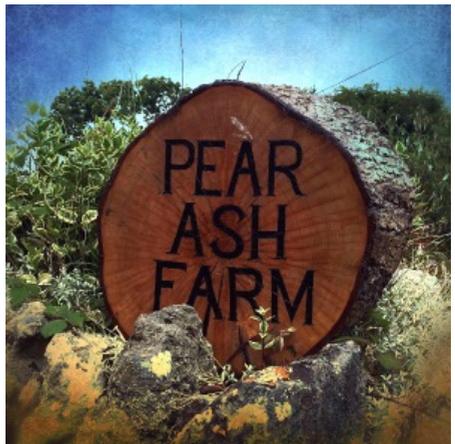
Knit & Knatter - Bring your knitting,
crochet or other stitching projects to
The Ram, Widcombe to enjoy your
craft in company over a drink or two!
May 20th, 7:30pm.

MenUNITED event 18th May at the
Cheese and Grain, Frome. We would
love to see lots of men from the
parish there. Get in contact with the
church office for more information.

**CHOPs (Community House of
Prayer)** next meeting May 7th,
7:45pm at Prior Park Garden Centre.

Widcombe Parish Family Weekend Away 24th-27th May

Fellowship, food and fun on the farm.
It's not too late to sign up if you
haven't done so far. Contact Jenny
or Sam for a booking form or more
information.



Sunday Services May 2019

Date	Time	Service		Venue
5th May Easter 3 Acts 9:1-20 John 21:1-19	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
12th May Easter 4 Acts 9:36-end John 10:22-30	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Family Worship and baptism	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
19th May Easter 5 Acts 11:1-18 John 13:31-35	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW) & baptism	Rev'd Jenny Buckler	 St Thomas à Becket
	5-7pm	Contemporary service (Toast café from 4.30pm)		 St. Matt's
26th May Easter 6 Acts 16:9-15 John 14:23-29	8am	NO SERVICE due to Parish Family Weekend Away		 St Thomas à Becket
	10.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Team Service	
	10.30am	NO SERVICE due to Parish Family Weekend Away		 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: 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 getting married, baptism or giving:

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

For bookings, volunteering or community activities:

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



We extend a warm welcome to **The German Lutheran Church** who hold occasional services at St Thomas à Becket. Their next services will be on 5th May and 7th July, 2019.

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