



Time for a barbeque



The arrival of summer weather brings out the barbeques. Over the past few weeks, my consumption of charred burgers, sausages and a variety of skewered meats and vegetables has increased dramatically.

Cooking—or barbequing—a meal is a great way to spend time with friends. I've discovered which of my friends are barbeque aficionados with strongly held views about the composition of charcoal and the best way to arrange food on the grill.

The Bible is full of meals. In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites to eat the first Passover meal before they escaped Egypt. One of Jesus's earliest



miracles involved turning water into wine at a wedding feast; later he fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. On his last night with his disciples before he was arrested and crucified, he shared the Last Supper with them. When he was raised back

to life and appeared to the disciples, he cooked them fish on the beach for breakfast (a barbeque perhaps?).

At St Thomas' this term, we have been looking at the gospel of John. In the passages that we have read, we have seen that Jesus was not just concerned with feeding his followers with meals of bread, fish or wine but that recognised that we also need to be fed spiritually. Although we might stuff ourselves at the barbeques, the next morning, we are hungry again.

There are many things in our lives that we hope might satisfy us—money, friends, family, career, possessions but we find that they cannot satisfy us completely. They perish, just as barbequed food is not fit to eat after a few days.

Jesus tells us and shows us that he is the bread of life (John 6:35) - this means that what he gives us satisfies. He gives us eternal life and forgiveness from our wrongdoings when we have faith in him.

Sarah Francis is from
St Thomas Church, Oakwood
www.st-toms.org.uk

