

A photograph of St. Matthew's Church in Newbottle, a stone building with a prominent steeple, set against a sunset sky. The church is surrounded by a green lawn and several gravestones in the foreground.

St. Matthew's Church

Newbottle

September - October

2019

*You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden
Matthew 5 v14*

**This magazine is distributed free by the congregation
of St. Matthew's Church in your parish of Newbottle**

Parish of St. Matthew's Newbottle Diocese of Durham

Church Services

Sunday Services

9.45 am Family Worship

Holy Communion & Crafty Church

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Church Open

Tuesday 10-11am

Wednesday 10.15-11.15am

Mother's Union

Wednesday 2pm Lady Chapel in Church

Church Hall

Church Hall Bookings by Email:

stmatthewshallbookings@gmail.com

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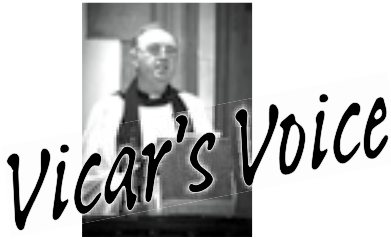
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From Our Registers:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Christening: | 4th August | Theodore William Swinney. |
| | 4th August | Oliver Benjamin Strong. |
| | 1st September | Archie Hanratty |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Wedding: | 3rd August | Stephen Marriott & Gemma Louise Cloughton. |
| Funeral: | 23rd July | Brian Elgy. |
| | 6th August | June Gritton. |
| | 7th August | Martha Clark. |
| | 16th August | Anne Stephenson. |
| Burial of Ashes: | 18th August | Kathleen Mary Walvern. |



A couple of weeks ago I bought a nice pair of brown leather shoes in a sale. They fit really well, are very comfortable but a bit awkward to put on, it's much easier with a shoe horn. We have one shoe horn but I wanted one for my car so I went into a store in Durham and asked a young man who worked there "Do you have a shoe horn?" To which he replied, "What's one of them, I've never heard of them?"

(I was telling the tale to a friend and he said it's a good job you didn't ask for a shoe tree – that would have caused some real confusion.) A more mature lady colleague explained to the young man what a shoe horn was and she informed me they have had them in but didn't have any just now. We've since ordered two on Amazon.

I found it surprising that the young man didn't know what a shoe horn was; it was an amusing experience. When I was driving home, it occurred to me that there are bound to be expressions and words that we often use in the church, especially in church services, which we regular churchgoers assume everyone understands, but which visitors or new starters at church might find very confusing. On a number of occasions when arranging a wedding service, I've chatted to the couple about their choice of hymns – often there's a mildly quizzical look and slightly vague response, followed by something like, "Oh, you mean church songs; we don't know any church songs, can you advise us".

Given what I've just said, it might surprise many folk to learn that we put a lot of

time and effort into making the Christian message and church services as easy as possible to follow and understand. Our aim is to make our message as simple as possible to follow, without it becoming simplistic – that is without making complicated issues and problems appear simpler than they really are. We all face making tough and tricky decisions all the time.

God through the experiences of Jesus, his childhood, adult years, life, death and resurrection, went through what each and every one of us goes through, and so He knows what it's like to be flesh and blood; to be human; to face those tricky decisions. He understands the hurt, the pain, the afflictions that we all to a lesser or greater degree go through; as well as the sheer joy and bliss of being alive, and being with the people we are close to and love.

When a well off young man asked Jesus; "Who should I be generous to, who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied by telling the parable of the "Good Samaritan" – a story about the extreme generosity shown by one man, we aren't told if he was wealthy or not, who stopped and cared for a poor soul who had been beaten and left for dead by the road side, after many previous travellers had walked past him on the other side of the road. That's the generosity you should have and show was Jesus' message.

We are being encouraged to be generous to those we regard as deserving and undeserving. Now that may very well cause lots of folk to think or say, "I don't understand, why should we?"

Well because that's the way God treats us and that's the way He wants us to treat everyone else. If we did, the world would be a much happier place for everyone – great.

Christenings at St. Matthew's Church



4th August Theodore William Swinney.



4th August Oliver Benjamin Strong.



1st September Archie Hanratty



Every year I organise a trip to Germany & the Christmas Markets, as a fundraiser. Now in its 17th year, this year's event is in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity, where I work.

The Fire Fighters Charity (Registered Charity No 1093387) supports whole time and retained fire fighters, non-uniformed staff, retired personnel and their families, by providing a range of services to help with physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing.

We started life as The Fire Service Benevolent Fund, supporting almost 1400 fire service orphans following the Blitz in 1943. In 2008 we changed our name, to represent the support we offer now.

We provide recuperation and flexible support following an illness or injury. This can be accessed at home, at one of our rehabilitation centres, or via the latest technology.



Fire fighters can often initially present with physical injuries which prevent them from working or leading a normal life, which then lead to emotional and psychological problems, anxiety around being able to return to work, money worries, or PDST from harrowing experiences. We offer complete and confidential support for whatever issues they may have. Their seriously ill child may need expensive medical equipment, maybe they have a long term back problem from a 25 year career, or perhaps retirement has left them feeling isolated and depressed – whatever the reason, we can help and support them towards recovery.

If you want full details of this luxury Siesta Club Class Premier coach trip through the Mosel Valley and the Romantic Rhine, go to www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/germany The trip is 25/11/19 - 01/12/19 and there will be a pick up point in Fencehouses.

Sylvia Stoneham



Golden Wedding Celebration

Tom & Irene
Baggott 11-10-1969



Why can't we just talk?

Have you ever been on holiday with your children and taken them to somewhere of great historical significance, Stonehenge for example or taken them to somewhere with a magnificent view, such as the Alps and they are not taking any notice, because they're on their mobile? Or perhaps you've been at these places and your offspring have photographed you on your mobile. I've been caught a few times and splashed across Facebook.



Most of us take communicating via email, texts, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp etc etc. for granted. Nowadays lots of us appear to be addicted to this sort of communication. Some of us can remember, through the mists of time, when the only form of distance communication was sending a letter or postcard, using a land line telephone or even, get this, a telegram! I can remember going on holiday, in England & my mum writing a postcard, to let my gran know we'd arrived safely! She'd be lucky to receive this postcard before we returned. My, how times have changed. Some of you will remember how "posh" you were, if you had a telephone (landline), even if it was a shared line with a random person

and will recollect using a phone box with the buttons A and B.

We certainly all like to communicate and we use it for safety, to summon help, to educate, to read news, to job hunt, for our friendships, for research, for advice, for shopping and for games.

Travelling back through history, at first the only means of communication was the human voice, but then around 3200BC writing was invented in Iraq and Egypt and later in China. Other civilizations also invented systems of writing, and the alphabet was invented.



We think of cavemen communicating through grunts, but recent research has shown that DNA found in Neanderthal bones in the now extinct species had a "language gene" that is only found in modern humans. And they certainly communicated with their cave art.



In some ancient civilizations people wrote on papyrus or parchment. The Chinese

invented paper about 100 BC. This spread across from the East to Europe. The telegraph was invented in 1837, and by



the late 1860s it was possible to send messages across the Atlantic. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876. Radio broadcasting began in Britain in 1922 when the BBC was formed. Television was invented around 1925 by John Logie Baird and the BBC began regular broadcasting in 1936. In 1960 the first communications satellite, Echo was launched. Telephones became common in people's homes in Britain in the 1970s. Martin Cooper invented the first handheld cell phone in 1973. The first mobile phone call in Britain was made in 1985. The first commercial text was sent in 1992. In Britain smartphones were introduced in 1996, but they were around a little before this in other countries. Nowadays the email is one of the most popular forms of communication. Wow! From grunts to emails! I used to joke with my pupils, when teaching, that our speech and writing had past its pinnacle and was returning from beautiful language and grammar and spelling via text speak & spelling back to grunts!

Of course while the development of communications is a marvellous thing and our 21st century devices are so useful and we now have at our fingertips

an array of marvellous resources, there are disadvantages. These range from encouraging people to stay within the home more (you'll have read reports on children having less exercise due to being on their various internet devices), to bullying, trolls, stalkers, crime, identity theft, violent & pornographic images, scams and many more. Even in terms of information we have to check sources as there is inconsistency in different websites. They can, for example, give different dates or information with a bias. The historical dates in this article might not be all absolutely correct, as even though I checked out several sites, I didn't check them all.



The Church of England has recently published social media guidelines to encourage conversations which reflect the values of the Church of England. In engaging with the church's social media accounts you are agreeing to be safe, respectful, kind and honest and to be a good ambassador as well as taking responsibility for what you say, disagreeing well, crediting others and following the terms and conditions.

More info @ <https://www.churchofengland.org/terms-and-conditions/our-social-media-community-guidelines>



Crafty Church Stickers have been designed by us to give out to any children attending Crafty Church during the Sunday morning family service. Come and join us, it's great fun and yes you too can have a sticker.



Simple Vegetable Soup

a simple, easy to make, hearty soup

Ingredients

Cooking Oil
12oz Potatoes
2 Leeks
12oz Carrots
1Litre or 1¾ pints Ham stock
2 slices of bacon
Stick of celery
Salt & Pepper

Method

Peel and chop all the vegetables.
Put the oil in a pan and gently fry the potatoes and carrots, & celery for about 5 mins.
Add the leeks and fry for a further 5 mins, until they are becoming soft.
Cut the bacon into small pieces and fry with the rest of the veg for a couple of minutes.
Season and add the stock.
Simmer for 20-30 mins.
Blend, then season to taste.

This soup freezes well.

Come and join us at

The Ukulele Band Concert



**at St. Matthew's Church, Newbottle
Tuesday December 10th 7.00pm**

Refreshments - Free Entry - Donations welcome



Diocese of Durham

Waymark Conference



We in the Diocese of Durham are committed to the calling of 'Blessing our Communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all.' If you think that's a mouthful don't give up and please read on. It means we want to concentrate on three priorities: 'Growing Churches', 'Children and Young People' and 'Poverty'.

The Conference which is called "Waymark" is designed to observe and listen to what God has been doing in our parishes and Diocese; what we have learned; and then to understand where God is leading us next on this journey. I hope you are still reading this, as this is where you, our parish magazine readers come in.

On October 12th & 13th October 2019, clergy and lay representatives from across Durham Diocese will be gathering at Newton Aycliffe. The purpose of the conference, is to reflect on the mission, leadership and culture change in our Diocese and to prayerfully determine the way ahead. St Matthew's will be represented at the conference by two of our Readers Tom and Malcolm.

The Waymark weekend will be a mixture of guest speakers, both group and informal discussions, as well as opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer.

In launching Waymark, Bishop Paul said: "This conference, and the build-up to it, mark a critical period in the life of our Diocese. We have named the conference Waymark, as our gathering will be an important step on our journey; a moment of arrival, of pausing for reflection, and then moving ahead together. My hope is that

the times of listening and learning ahead of, and in preparation for, Waymark, will help us to maximize our learning from our involvement with the Missional Leadership for Growth programme, the Partnership for Missional Church process, our Setting God's People Free learning community, and our experiences in creating and sustaining Resource Churches."

I know it may be heavy reading but, as we said above, this is where you our readers come in. We would obviously love for you come to church and be with us, we want to share the enrichment that faith brings to life as well as the friendship, fellowship and support that belonging to the family of God brings. We do hear and understand the reasons for not coming, such as, "It's the only day we have off to do everything" our so and so has football, gymnastics etc etc. Honestly we at St Matthew's can't always make every Sunday. The reasons are many (note we don't say excuses), all valid and understandable reasons which we do understand. But what we would really like to know is "What would make coming to church more attractive to you, what are we doing that could be improved. Are there better times for you, midweek, an evening gathering may be, social activities that may appeal to you, coffee, cake and a chat (we do great coffee). Anything to help us, please let us know. You can contact us using our magazine email address smn-magazine@outlook.com or if you'd like a personal contact please contact Tom at thomas.dick1955@gmail.com. We would love to hear your comments and ideas. Thank you for reading to the end.



The weather forecast was poor, but that didn't stop our annual bbq going ahead. Luckily, Sunday morning was bright and sunny and towards the end of the service Billy was already in situ, outside the vestry door, barbequing. The smell wafting through the church was wonderful.

After the service all hands were on deck to set up the tables and chairs and to set out the array of barbeque accompaniments – salads, coleslaw, rice, potatoes, cheese bread and of course tomato ketchup. Billy by this time already had chicken, burgers and sausages sizzling and ready to eat. This was all washed down with a glass of sparkling prosecco, a robust red or a crisp white wine. Of course there were also fruit juices and water, for anyone who was under 18 or driving. We're a sensible lot!!

Interestingly, while writing this article I was looking for the correct spelling of "barbeque". Apparently the spelling in English is mainly "barbecue", but barbeque is also acceptable and becoming more and more common. It is also abbreviated as bbq and of course in Australia it's a Barbie. The word comes from the Spanish "barbacoa" a term used to describe a framework of sticks set up upon posts. After Columbus landed in the Americas in 1492, the Spaniards apparently found the Haitians roasting meat over a grill made of a wooden framework, resting on sticks above a fire.

Well, regardless of where it all comes from, we all had a *grate* time as it was nice to *meat* up after church and have a really good *ketchup*!! Big thanks to our cook Billy





Life Saving Installation!



Councillors Jack Cunningham & Kevin Johnston with
Labour spokesperson Melanie Thornton outside
St Matthew's church Hall & Community Centre

Great news for Newbottle village. We've just had a cabinet-mounted defibrillator fitted to the outside of the church hall. This potentially life-saving equipment is available for use by the community in the event of an emergency. Our thanks go to Councillor Jack Cunningham for helping to organise funding through the Community Chest and also to the British Heart Foundation. This really has put Newbottle Church and Community Hall at the heart of the village!



Free training to use the new defibrillator has been organised for Friday 8th November 6-8pm in the church hall. This will be delivered by the North East Ambulance Service and all are welcome!

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Our members met others from churches in the diocese at the Congregational Church, Durham City on 9 August to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Mary founded the Mothers' Union and it was good for us all, to remember her together on that day. It was a very enjoyable service and we all heartily sang the lovely hymns. Refreshments followed the service and we caught up on news from other parishes. Also attended on 2 June was the deanery Quiet Day held at Penshaw parish church. It was conducted by Nicola Jay and was a very refreshing afternoon, much enjoyed by everyone. We look forward to attending the Deanery Festival Service in September to be held at St Andrew's church, Chilton Moor. Overseas Night, an event to be held

at St Michael & All Angels on Tuesday 10 September, promises to be very enjoyable. The Manse Singers will provide our entertainment and the proceeds obtained from admission charge, raffle and bring and buy will be sent to a deserving cause overseas.



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Manager Paul Thompson Tel: 0779 0094 116



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*Or if you fancy just enjoying a drink,
then visit our superb lounge bar.*

Would you like to play for the club or have you a youngster who would like to be coached by one of the top coaches in the Country, Geoff Cook, who coached Durham County to three County Championships.

Just get in touch with chairman Malcolm Pratt on 0191 3890484.



September is a really significant time for families with children of all ages. The very young may be starting Nursery, older ones may be starting School, moving up a class or starting College or University. All these educational establishments have a huge impact on local communities.

Our church has always supported all families at this time of new beginnings and transition, which is often accompanied with anxiety and excitement. We particularly hold in our thoughts, all those who have had children baptized at St. Matthew's – as we offer our continued support and prayers as they grow up in the family of God.

A prayer for all those in education:

*God of wisdom,
Give them joy as they start work for
this academic year;
Give them love for those they meet,
Give them hope for those whose future
they affect,
Give them strength for each day
And the knowledge of your presence
by their side.
Amen.*

All Souls Service **Sunday 27th October at 6.00 p.m.**



The departed will be remembered by name during prayers. Those whose funerals have been conducted at St Matthew's or by the Vicar at the crematorium, will automatically be prayed for. Other names may be added to the list at the back of the church.

Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal

**Boxes to be handed in by the
Sunday 10th November**



Once again we are supporting the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal, which gives so much joy to children living in the world's deprived areas.

If you would like to take part, now is the time to look out for small items to fill your shoe box. This year neither toothpaste, nor sweets can be included in the boxes, apparently due to new customs regulations.

Anyone wishing to take part can obtain a shoebox from church from Sunday 29th September.

Notices & Information

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 10.00am on the following

September 6th 13th 20th 27th

October 4th 11th 18th 25th

Harvest Sunday 22nd September produce can be brought to church on Friday 20th between 10 and 11 o'clock

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers

Flowers from the funeral of Anne Stephenson

Flowers from the funeral of Martha Clark

Flowers from the funeral of June Gritton

In loving memory of George Clough from daughters Valerie, Linda and Families

Anonymous donation for flowers

FABRIC FUND

Donation from Sylvia Winspear

In Memory of Joan, a dear friend and neighbour. From Doreen and Sam

In Loving Memory of Ellen Wilson. Love from John and Rita

Happy Birthday Memories of Gilbert Petrie

Sunnyside Methodist Church

Donation to church fund:

In loving memory of John & Mavis Walker, from the family.

Donation to flower fund.

Anniversary memories of Walter & Isabel Shearer, also brother Bill, with love from Brian.

The next councillor ward surgery at church hall is on Saturday 19th October, 10-11am attended by Houghton and Copt Hill Councillors



Church Records

Many people from all over the world contact St. Matthew's wishing to access

records held by the church relating to their family and friends history.

At St. Matthew's we hold a burials register listing burials in the churchyard dating from November 1945 to the present time. All previous registers are held in a controlled environment in the "County Records Office" at Durham County Hall.

There are over 5,000 people buried in St. Matthew's churchyard. Where there are headstones it is possible to identify where people are buried. However, many graves do not have headstones or any other form of grave marker.

There is no existing plan of churchyard burials but there is a small book, available in church, listing headstone inscriptions. This small book, with additional information, such as date of death or date of burial, can sometimes make it possible to approximately identify where a person may be buried even when there is no headstone in place.

All older Christening, Marriage and Burial registers dating from the opening of the original church in 1850 and prior to 2005 are held in the County Records Office and this should be the starting point for those who wish to trace information from these records.

Durham County Records Office may be found at www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk.

At St. Matthew's we will do all we can to assist people in their enquiries.

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St. Matthew's Church Newbottle



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November

Church Hall 2.00pm

St. Matthew's Church & Community Hall

...part of the local community spirit

Weekly Timetable

| DAY | TIME | CLUB |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday | 1.00pm-2.30pm | Computer Skills (John) |
| Monday | 6.30pm-8.30pm | Judo (Brian) |
| Tuesday | 9.30am-12.00noon | Arts & Crafts Club (Kathleen) |
| Tuesday | 6.00pm-7.30pm | Karate (Ed) |
| Thursday | 9.30am-10.30am | Coffee Morning |
| Thursday | 10.30am-11.15am | Sit and Be Fit |
| Thursday | 12.30pm-1.30pm | Lunch Club |
| Thursday | 6.00pm-7.30pm | Karate (Ed) |
| Friday | 10.10am to 11am | Zumba Gold (Janet) |
| Sunday | 5.30pm-6.30pm | Karate (Ed) |

Would you like to book the Church Hall for a party or club meeting?
Contact Steven or Julie by Email: stmatthewshallbookings@gmail.com

For all information on St. Matthew's Church and the Church Hall

www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org

We're on Facebook
St. Matthew's Church, Newbottle

