



St. Matthew's Church Newbottle

Jan - Feb 2017

Happy New Year

*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

8.00 am Holy Communion

(1st Sunday in the month)

9.45 am Family Worship—Holy Communion & Sunday School

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Prayer Group

1st Thursday in month, 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Church Open

Tuesday 10.00am until 11.00am

Wednesday 10.15am until 11.15am

Mother's Union

Wednesday 2.00pm Lady Chapel in Church

Church Hall

Party Bookings taken -

Tracey Tait: 07769 678271

St Matthew's Church Clergy

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Rev. Edward Wilkinson.

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J. Warren.

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Editorial team

Julie Gibson, Vera Marshall,
Charles Martin

From Our Registers:

Baptisms: 20th November

Layla-Rose Hardy.

Eva Mae Sunley.

Logan Richard Simpson.

4th December

Benjamin Liadi Mudashiru.

Wedding: 12th November

Andrew Davison & Cheryl Leng.

Funeral: 4th January

Leslie Turner.

Dates for the Diary:

Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday 28th February.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 1st March.

Deanery Lent Course with the bishop of Durham - Rt. Rev. Paul Butler – at St. Matthew's Newbottle.

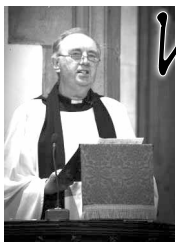
At 7.00pm on Thursday 16th April, Thursday 23rd April & Thursday 30th April Bishop Paul will be at St. Matthew's leading a deanery lent course. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Mothering Sunday: 26th March.

Maundy Thursday: 13th April

Good Friday: 14th April.

Easter Sunday: 16th April.



Vicar's Voice

On radio, television and in the press there are always "News Reviews" at the end of the old year, and December 2016 was no different. I don't have the time or space to reflect on the past year in this letter, but I will say we saw some monumental changes get under way in 2016, which will be worked out in 2017 and beyond. It would appear exciting times are ahead for us all, let's hope they are exciting good times.

On the evening of New Year's Eve, it is the custom for family and friends to get together for a meal or a party and think back over the past year from a personal point of view, and then more often than not hope that the New Year, which is full of potential, will be better than the one that's just ended, which itself was full of potential just 12 months earlier.

Those who have enjoyed themselves a little too much over the Christmas holidays might go for a "Dry January", or be determined to lose the weight that they've put on, go on a diet and join a keep fit class or take out a gym membership. By the middle of January, sometimes it doesn't take that long; "New Year Resolutions" are abandoned as it often proves just too hard to keep them up.

In a world where everything is changing all the time and the rate of change seems to be accelerating, it is good to have something solid to rely on, and for many of us that is our faith. God and the

Christian gospel have a timeless and eternal quality which many of us find very reassuring. During 2016 a good number of church members at St. Matthew's took on "The Bible Challenge – Read the Bible in a Year". As we work our way through the bible we are reminded how committed and faithful God is in His love for mankind and creation, He wants only the best for each and everyone but He has also given us the power of choice or free will.

Often the choices we make in our lives have knock on effects that we cannot possibly foresee both for ourselves, our immediate circle of family and friends, and even for those we will never meet or know in some far off part of the world. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep on trying to do the best we possibly can to live a good and worthy life, mindful of the needs of others and it doesn't mean that we can't still enjoy life because we certainly can.

God has given everyone life as a blessing. We should do all we can to make sure that everyone, regardless of who they are, or where they live, or what religion they follow or not as the case may be, has the chance to enjoy making the most of their lives.

Let's hope we can sit and reflect with family and friends on 31st December 2017 that this has been a good year which we've all worked to enjoy together and we have.

Eddy Wilkinson.

Church Hall Mural

As part of a Summer break assignment back in 2015, 2nd year BTEC Art & Design Extended Diploma L3 students at Sunderland College were tasked with designing a feature mural to replace the boarded-up window in our church hall, to invigorate its appearance and provide the area with some public art. The brief we gave was to focus on the Community and the Church in Newbottle; mining, farming, pottery and Christianity all featured in the winning design by Shannon Conlin, which was reproduced over the window board on 6th December in 3 sections – bringing some much-needed colour to our community venue. Check it out during the evening as it's floodlit too!

Shannon, now 19 and studying Art at Sunderland University is delighted that her design has finally become a reality. Her lecturer, Andrew Foulds, said "It was fantastic to see Shannon and the other students find their inspiration in history and heritage...the very things that have helped shape communities, lives and Newbottle itself. It is important that students fully appreciate the positive impact good design and colourful art can have on people's lives and communities."

The project was organised and overseen by Julie Gibson, a Quality Officer at Sunderland College and a member of St Matthew's Church Hall Management Committee, Church Council and Development Team. She said "It was a difficult decision choosing



the winning entry as the calibre of designs was so high. But in the end we chose the design which we thought would have the greatest visual impact on the village." Hannah Johnston, James William Stafford, Tapanga Burney and Joe McAllister were runners-up, and their original designs will also be displayed inside the church hall.

You may be thinking that this project has taken a long time to come to fruition, from starting in the Summer of 2015 and fitted in December 2016? Well this is a good example of showing our commitment towards bettering our community venue in Newbottle, as we had to find a company who could undertake the installation and then it took a while to raise the four figure sum to pay for it! Our fundraising events have all contributed to paying for the mural, so our thanks go to everyone who continues to support these, and we hope you agree its all worthwhile!



Left: Student, Shannon Conlin
Centre: Julie Gibson
Right: Lecturer, Andrew Foulds

Newbottle Academy's Sparkle and Shine at St. Matthew's



On a bright, dry and crisp December morning (12.12.16) the children from Newbottle Academy made their way up to St Matthew's church for their annual Christmas service. This year, in contrast to last year, some of the children were peeling off their coats and scarves as they entered. It was so cosy and warm.

After Reception class sang, "Rat a Tat Tat" Y6 lead with the first of their 3 narrations. All were read loudly and clearly. Year 2 sang, "Starry night", followed by Y4's beautiful rendition of, "The First Noel". It was wonderful to hear their voices. Y6 performed, "Little Drummer Boy" in 2 parts and Y3 sang, "Now Light 1000 Christmas Lights".

All became hushed as they settled down to watch the DVD made by St Paul's church in New Zealand – a delightful video of the nativity story, as told and acted by young children. This told the whole of the Christmas story, complete with animal poop in the stable and the narrator telling everyone that the little baby had 2 daddies.

After the adorable DVD, Y1 sang, "Come and Join the celebration", followed by Y5 with, "Step into Christmas. Eddy finished with a prayer and a blessing and to round it all off all of KS2 sang "Sparkle and Shine".

Well, this service did sparkle and shine. It's always lovely to hear children's voices celebrating Christmas. It adds the sparkle and shine!

Women's Fellowship

Jacqui Harriman and Joy Warren worked together to present material for our meeting on Wednesday, 23 November. Joy gave an introductory talk and Jacqui provided an excellent DVD lasting an hour which gave a fascinating description of 16c life on the borders of England and Scotland. We learnt of the people, known as border reivers, who struggled to survive in the very hard conditions which passed most of Britain by. The land was rather poor, there was much fighting between the English and the Scots, and the men became kind of guerrilla fighting soldiers. They practised the arts of raiding and theft within their own boundaries as well as across the border, and founded the protection racket which gave the word 'blackmail' to the English language. The many family names of the reivers remain in our area today but they are also spread across the world. It was an Armstrong who first landed on the moon, and a Nixon who became president of the USA. Four members attending our meeting hold border reiver family names, and more can be counted within our congregation. Everyone found the meeting very interesting.

The Women's Fellowship attended another Christmas lunch at The Mill Inn, Houghton on Monday 12 December, and it was much enjoyed by everyone.

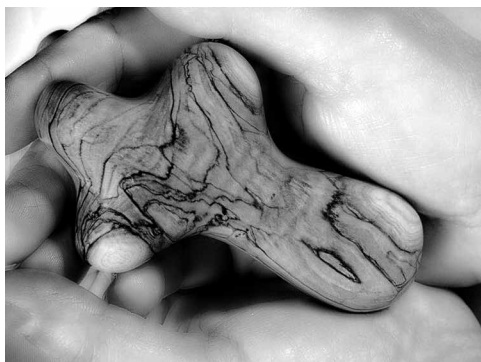
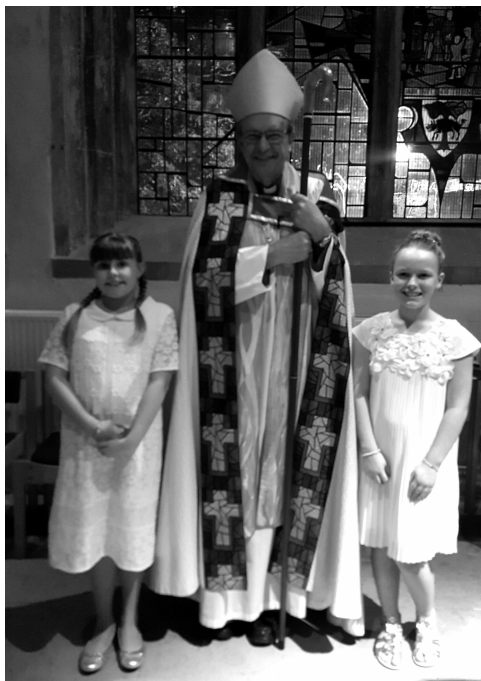




Confirmation

Thursday 17th November was the date for the Houghton-Le-Spring Deanery Confirmation service for 2016, which this year was held at St.Michael & All Angels Church in Houghton at 7pm. The Bishop of Durham, The Right Reverend Paul Butler, confirmed 18 candidates from the deanery – 2 of these were from our Church at St.Matthew's.

Lauren Sharp and Olivia Gibson, both aged 10 from Year 6 at Newbottle Primary Academy, were our candidates, who have both been a part of our church family since they were very young. They were the only young children being confirmed, and both looked very smart indeed! After the service, they were both presented with a signed book entitled "Living Your Confirmation – Putting Promises into Action" from the Bishop (which he co-wrote with Pete Maidment), and our vicar gave them a "Holding Cross", which is made from olive wood in the Holy Land. Because a holding cross is not decorated or ornamental, it is a true reminder of the harsh wood of the cross of Jesus, and can be held during prayer – a very appropriate and practical token for the girls.



Refreshments were served at the back of the church after the service, whilst photographs were taken of the candidates and the Bishop, and there were plenty of well-wishers in attendance from our congregation to support and witness this occasion – thanks to you all!

Baptisms at St. Matthew's



Eva May Sunley and Lyla-Rose Hardy were Christened on Sunday 20 November 2016

Logan Richard Simpson was Christened on Sunday 20 November 2016



Benjamin Liadi Mudashiru was Christened on Sunday 4 December 2016



Christmas Fayre 2016



Saturday 26th November was the date for our annual Christmas Fayre, where "Team St. Matthew's" once again pulled together in the name of fundraising and community spirit! Santa's faithful little helpers spent Friday evening and all Saturday morning setting up the grotto and stalls, to get everything ready for this great festive event.

By 2pm, the mulled wine was flowing as Santa made a big entrance ringing his bell, to see lots of excited boys and girls, whilst the adults were getting themselves a bargain from our Christmas decoration stall which we piloted last year – with sock snowmen, candy canes and bags of baubles all lovingly put together! The knitted Christmas teapot cosies were also a hit with the adults this year, as well as winning prizes from the various tombolas and all the other fayre favourites.

The grand total raised was £1519.21, which is amazing – many thanks and well done to those who worked so hard and gave their time and talents to raise such a grand total!



Christmas Fayre 2016



| PRIZE | TICKET No. | PRIZE | PRIZE WINNER |
|------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Prize | 1369 | Hamper | Joyce Dixon |
| 2nd Prize | 0288 | Bottle of Vodka | Susan Dick |
| 3rd Prize | 1032 | Bottle of Whisky | Sue Stanton |
| 4th Prize | 0316 | Bottle of Whisky | Gerry Dick |
| 5th Prize | 0956 | M&S Voucher | Malcolm Adamson |
| 6th Prize | 0960 | Bottle of Port | Malcolm Adamson |
| 7th Prize | 2089 | Bottle of Sherry | Charlotte Berriman |
| 8th Prize | 0175 | Bottle of Baileys | Peter Mackenzie |
| 9th Prize | 1715 | Bottle of Jacobs Creek | A Foster |
| 10th Prize | 1815 | Chocolate Basket | Janet Conlon |
| 11th Prize | 0305 | Fruit Basket | Susan Dick |
| 12th Prize | 0599 | Fox's Biscuits | c/o Vera Marshall |
| 13th Prize | 1087 | Tub of Heroes Chocolates | Dorothy Beaumont |
| 14th Prize | 1962 | Tub of Quality Street | Marjorie Jordison |
| 15th Prize | 1156 | Bottle of red wine | Mrs Porter |
| 16th Prize | 1432 | Men's Dove Gift Set | Brenda Robson |
| 17th Prize | 1796 | Ladies Gift Set | Tilly Lydiatt |
| 18th Prize | 2460 | Plant | Annette Graham |
| 19th Prize | 0916 | Cuddly Toy | Maddy |
| 20th Prize | 2147 | Address Book | c/o Robson Print |



| STALL | MONEY RAISED |
|--|--------------|
| Jams, Marmalades & Chutneys | £46.00 |
| Guess the weight of the cake | £14.00 |
| Santas Grotto | £55.00 |
| Handmade Cards | £110.00 |
| Cake Stall | £90.85 |
| Entrance Fees | £36.30 |
| Toys & Games | £53.50 |
| Toy Tombola | £36.60 |
| Christmas Decorations | £72.00 |
| Jewellery | £96.58 |
| Books | £58.90 |
| Christmas Gifts | £44.18 |
| Mulled Wine & Mince Pies | £40.10 |
| Teas & Cakes | £79.85 |
| Bottles in Bags Tombola | £102.00 |
| Tombola | £71.00 |
| Grand Raffle | £329.30 |
| White Elephant | £124.05 |
| Mr & Mrs Claus | £20.00 |
| Car Boot (sale of left over Bric-a-Brac) | £39.00 |

FAYRE TOTAL: £1519.21



Carols Were Not Boar-ing!

Just before Christmas, on Saturday 17th December, several of us from churches in the area descended on the Wild Boar in Houghton to:

“Reject Isolation.....join our Congregation”

as the poster displays! This was a different type of festive cheer though – carol singing! With the customers joining in enthusiastically, it was a truly joyous occasion, showing how we can all come together to make an impact on our local communities through Christianity, at Christmas.



Festive Afternoon Tea

It's been a little while since we had an afternoon tea at our Church Hall, so we thought we'd have one Post-Christmas/New Year, to allow everyone to come together and catch up after the busyness of the advent period.



Saturday 7th January was the date we settled on, and at £3 per ticket or £10 per family, you couldn't ask for a more affordable and pleasant social event! There were around 40-50 people who came along and each of the 8 tables had a selection of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes, biscuits, scones and, of course, plenty of tea. As usual, we had a raffle after everyone had finished eating and drinking, which raised £56; and with ticket sales raising £164, it was not only a lovely occasion, but also a prosperous Epiphany fundraiser, totalling £220! Thanks to all those who supported this by bringing lovely food or helping out.



Announcement

Joe and Joan Forster are pleased to announce that they will soon be great grandparents, and Gillian will be a Grandma.

Joe and Joan lived in Brompton Terrace for many years and worshipped at St. Matthew's, before retiring to Seahouses. Joe served as Churchwarden, Joan was a member of the Mothers' Union and they were both members of the P.C.C.

We wish them many congratulations.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

The Christingle marked the first of our Christmas Services on Sunday 11th December at 4pm, which was the 3rd Sunday of Advent. This family orientated service, now in its 48th year for Children's Society, raises millions throughout the country to help us change the lives of disadvantaged children. And all it takes is an orange! This is how the money raised can support vulnerable children:

- £8 could pay for art therapy materials that helps a child talk about the abuse they've suffered
- £12 could pay towards a support session for young carers
- £25 could allow a project worker 1 hour of time with a young person to talk through their concerns

We raised a grand total of £144 from our Christingle Service, which is excellent – we would also like to thank Will Render of Newbottle Food Stores, for donating the oranges.

Carols around the tree with sherry and mince pies was the next service on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm.

This service is always a firm favourite, especially as our tree looked beautiful – the star seemed particularly prominent on top of it! Many thanks to John Ritchie for donating the tree, as always, and to those who helped to get it into the church and decorated (which is no easy feat!). A good time singing, eating and drinking was had by all at this mid-week service.



Perhaps the most popular Christmas Service at St. Matthew's is the Carols by Candlelight service, on Sunday 18th December at 6pm, which was the 4th Sunday of Advent. The Church was full of both people and atmosphere, as we sang lots of carols together, aided by our fabulous screen at the front of the church which enables us to sing out loud instead of down into our service sheets. We really did lift the roof with our singing, and it was an absolutely uplifting experience. Special thanks go to Nicola O'Connor for her beautifully sung solo performances – we are indeed very fortunate to have such talent and support from our congregation and community, which make all of our Christmas Services a very holy and festive event to attend.

Sunnyside Methodist Church

Church Fund:

Treasured memories of a dear sister Elsie Ellis, from Peggy, Jack & family.

In loving memory of Elsie Ellis, from Arthur and family.

In loving memory of Neil, from Ella and family.

In loving memory of a dear wife and mam, Elsie Graves, who died on Christmas day 2008, with love from Tim & David.

In loving memory of mam and dad, Mavis & John Walker, and grandma and granddad, from Mrs. Barbara Hood.

Donations to Flower Fund:

Loving Christmas memories of John, from Doreen, Betty & Ken.

In memory of a dear mam and dad Bill & Peggy Reed at Christmas, from Kathleen and family.

Church Anniversary Service

The church anniversary service was held on Sunday 4th December celebrating 117 years of worship at Sunnyside and was conducted by Rev. Wesley Blakey from Whitley Bay.

Members from Sunnyside visited Springfield Care Home on Tuesday 13th December and gave a short service of carols and lessons led by Mrs. Jean Shotton. The carol service was repeated on Sunday 18th December at the Laurels care home where Mr. Tim Graves is now resident. Both services were much appreciated by all.

Notices & Information

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Wilson Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 10.00am on the following

January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Flowers for Christmas in Memory of Family and Friends

In Memory of Bill Towers at Christmas from Enid and Family

In Memory of Ronnie Berriman at Christmas from Ivy and Family

In Memory of a Dear Dad at Christmas

Donation for Christmas Flowers with thoughts of Alan a loving and much loved Husband and Dad also Mam and Dad from Margaret, Craig, Scott, Deborah and Carly

Anonymous donation for flowers

Special Anniversary and Birthday Memories of our Dear Dad, Mam, Granda and Gran Jack and Peg Smith loved and always remembered from Carole Brian Anthony Lynsey Samantha and Sonia.

Proceeds from the Church Flower Donation Box

Many thanks to all who donated funds for Christmas Flowers in Church once again the Church looked magnificent to welcome the Birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

FABRIC FUND

Donation from Margaret Freeman

Anonymous Donation

FLOWER FUND

CHURCH HALL RESTORATION FUND

Anonymous donation

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www.banskoskiandhike.com



Thursdays 12.30 - 1.30pm

Contact: Malcolm 0191 5844995

Newbottle Church Hall

...part of the local community spirit

Weekly Timetable

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday | 6.30-8.30 pm | Judo (Brian) |
| Tuesday | 9.30-12.00am | Arts & Crafts Club (Kathleen) |
| Thursday | 9.30-10.30 am | Coffee Morning |
| Thursday | 12.30-1.30 pm | Lunch Club |
| Thursday | 6.15-6.45 pm | Metafit (Faye) |



Girlguiding Newbottle

if you are interested in joining Rainbows,
Brownies or Guides contact Tracey Tait

07769 678271

St. Matthew's Church Hall

Coffee & Book Sale



Every Thursday 9.30 - 11.30am

Come along for a cup of Tea, Coffee,
a friendly chat and find a good book too.



Visit our website to find out about services
and events at St. Matthew's Church
www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org