

# St. Matthew's Church Newbottle May-June 2020



*"The building is closed,  
the church is open"*

*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

Councillor Ward Surgery dates for this year, which are held in the Jubilee Room of our Church Hall, 10-11am, attended by Houghton and Copt Hill Councillors:

**Saturday 18th January 2020**

**Saturday 18th April 2020**

**Saturday 18th July 2020**

**Saturday 24th October 2020**

### *Front Cover*

**The photo is a representation of looking through the window together with the quote.**

**“The building is closed but the church is open”**

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***If you have some local news or an article about the Newbottle area, then email it to:***

***veramarshall1@hotmail.com***



# Vicar's Voice

Life has all of a sudden become very strange and unusual for all of us. Everyone has to get used to doing things in a very different way, for the safety of those around us and ourselves. Going to the supermarket, which was a routine or we might say even a boring chore for most of us, has all of a sudden taken on a whole new complexity which we could hardly have conceived of three or four weeks ago. Children can't go to school, adults working lives are disrupted, many folk are wondering how they're going to make ends meet, and those of us who have grandchildren feel deprived.

Our appreciation and dependency on our precious health care professionals in the NHS, carers in nursing homes and those working in the community as home carers, has been brought to the fore by the current health crisis. There are lots of lovely men and women who work tremendously hard to help the sick and dying, and they have always done this, but all of a sudden they have become more visible and precious.

Very sadly, as we hear in our daily news bulletins, many people, despite the best efforts of those caring for them, have died. This is heartbreaking enough as it is for family and friends, but it has been made even worse by the restrictions being placed on funeral services at the present time for health and safety reasons. There can be no church services, which for our village community of Newbottle is a tremendous loss, as local folk like to come together to support the bereaved families, pay their respects to the departed, and then often celebrate them afterwards in a local pub or club.

What has made things worse is that there have to be restrictions placed on the numbers of those attending services at our local crematoriums. Typically there is a 20 minute service with a limit of 8-10 people allowed to attend a crematorium or graveside service. If there's a big family, difficult choices have to be made as to who can attend. It's really hard for those who are more elderly and vulnerable, often a husband or wife, or for relatives who live in a different part of the country and can't travel because of the current restrictions, and they are simply not allowed to attend. Those who can attend aren't allowed to travel together unless they are living in the same household – no traditional funeral cars are in use, no handshakes and no hugs.

Jesus was quickly laid to rest as the Sabbath Day approached on Good Friday in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, with just a few family and friends looking on him from a distance. When they came back three days later, they found the love of God had raised him to life eternal, and they gave thanks and rejoiced for their beloved.

When circumstances allow, memorial services can be held for those who've passed away in these terrible times. Families will be able to celebrate their loved ones lives as they see fit, and we at St. Matthew's will do all we can to help with that. In the meantime, please be assured that we are keeping all the departed and those who are grieving for them, in our prayers.

Eddy Wilkinson

## From our Registers

Christening	1st March	Alayah Eve Gray
Funerals	25th February	Harry Cowan – funeral in church, committal at Sunderland Crematorium
	23rd March	Dorothea Richardson – funeral in church. Committal at Houghton cemetery, maximum of 8 people in church with no organist or singing.

On Mon 23rd March “Cof E” archbishops suspend all church services until further notice.

30th March	Jack Jordison – funeral at Durham Crematorium.
31st March	Brian Forster - funeral at Sunderland Crematorium.
3rd April	William Mole –funeral at Sunderland Crematorium
6th April	Betty Ray - funeral at Durham Crematorium (funeral conducted by Stephen Holmes)
17th April	Douglas Poulter – graveside service. Hetton Cemetery

The relatives of the above 5 people may have a memorial service for their family members once church services resume.

Burial of Ashes: 28th February Jean Welsh.

# A STRANGE LENT



February started off well, with everything going to plan. On Saturday 22nd February we had a Pancake Breakfast at the Church Hall and posters for our Mother's Day Service had been displayed around the village. We started our Lent course on 3rd March "Setting Our Hearts on Fire", and were joined by people from East & West Rainton. Planning had started for the School's Easter service & an art activity had been chosen, the results of which would be used to decorate our church both ready for the children's service and for all our Easter services. The school's artwork always has our church looking beautiful, along with the flowers, over Easter.

By late February early March we were advised to still carry out the Peace, but with no contact. Some bowed, some waved. At that time we were still able to take the bread and wine during Communion. Eventually we were advised to take only Communion in one kind i.e. the bread and only the vicar Eddy to have the wine on our behalf. Of course during this time the strictest hygiene policies from the Diocese were adhered to.

By 18th March the UK had confirmed 676 new cases of coronavirus, taking it to a total of 2,626 with 32 more deaths, taking



the total to 104. Pastoral letters had been sent around by the Bishops calling a halt to services in churches, for people's safety, but encouraging us to take the opportunity to re-imagine our prayer life and to "serve all people in a new way". We were encouraged to shut up shop physically, but not spiritually. Certainly a challenge!

Our first Sunday after this was Mothering Sunday. It was decided that the church should be open for private prayer over the normal service time. Strict hygiene rules were in place. The little bunches of daffodils, that are always distributed during the service, were instead delivered to congregation members and those who are unable to get out at all. By the next day, Monday March 23rd, Boris Johnson had announced the Coronavirus lockdown. All churches were immediately closed and we really did have to get on with the challenge of providing some sort of worship as well as keeping in touch with the elderly, & those who are ill or housebound.

We cannot pretend to be doing a perfect job of it all, but St Matthew's is and has been streaming 2 short services per week. Lists have been made of all those we can contact via emails and another list of those with no access to computers, who need to be kept in touch with via telephone. People have been rung and emails go out daily – "The News from the Pews!" We are trying to continue some of our weekly services on line. Do follow our facebook & join us.

# *Funeral Ministry*

By Stephen Holmes

At the beginning of April 2020, I was licensed by the Bishop of Durham as an Authorised Lay Funeral Minister. This means that, in addition to my role as Licensed Reader (Lay Minister), leading and assisting in services of public worship, I am now able to conduct funeral services on behalf of the Church of England.

Over the last few months, I have accompanied our vicar Eddy in meeting with recently bereaved families in preparation for the funeral of their loved ones. In addition, I have been able to assist him in funeral services in church, at Sunderland Crematorium, Durham Crematorium and at Houghton Cemetery.

There is so much I could say about the challenges of funeral ministry, particularly at this difficult time. What I will say for the present, reflecting on my work in hospitals and in hospices, and now in my new church role, is that every loss, every bereavement, is unique. Grief, the feelings we experience when someone dies, are a natural response to our relationship with that person. Jesus understood this. He understood each of his friends and disciples as individuals. He listened to them and he comforted them.

The church of which we are members, endeavours to represent a loving God who understands each of us on our journey of life, both in faith and its uncertainties, helping to provide time and space to grieve, and where appropriate, to acknowledge and celebrate the life of a loved one. The Covid 19 pandemic presents a huge challenge for all of us, in supporting those affected by the unexpected death of a friend, partner or family member, especially when combined with social distancing and isolation. We need to find new ways, or rediscover old ways of keeping in touch, especially in the days, weeks and months after a bereavement.

Pick up the phone, send a message or card. Let them know that you are thinking of them.

If you would like the church to pray for you, or to remember a loved one in our prayers, please get in touch. Contact details are in the parish magazine and on our website.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround those who are grieving with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Prayer adapted from authorised funeral service)



# Jack Jordison

Jack was born 12th September 1923, when his parents George & Margaret were living in Newbottle Row, Grasswell; he was the youngest of four children, brother William and sisters Ethel & Mary. Jack grew up in Grasswell and attended Newbottle School.

Upon leaving school Jack started as an apprentice bricklayer with a local building company remaining in their employ until the company closed in 1968. He then worked at Sunderland Polytechnic in the Civil Engineering Department where he remained until his retirement.

Around 1939, when he was about 16 years old, Jack met Margaret Elizabeth Scott (Betty). They hit it off and started a long courtship, which involved many happy hours in "Di Mambro's Ice Cream Parlour", in Houghton.

Jack's apprenticeship and his courtship of Betty was interrupted in 1941 when he was called up to serve in the Reconnaissance Corps. On 6 June 1944 Jack was a member of a Bren Gun Carrier team that took part in the D Day landings in Normandy. He served in France until 6 September 1944 when he was wounded, near Lille in France and suffered severe injuries. He spent many months being nursed back to health and the scars he suffered remained with him throughout his life.

After the war ended Jack and Betty married on the 6th April 1946 starting married life in Paddock Stile, where son David was born in January 1951. In 1953 the family moved to the newly built "Cellar Hill

Estate" at Newbottle. It was still Jack's



home address when he died.

David married Marjorie in 1977, in 1985 grandson Paul was born to the special delight of Jack and his wife Betty as he became the centre of their lives.

Betty suddenly and unexpectedly died in 1994, which was devastating for Jack. The love, friendship and support of Jack's

sister Mary helped him to come to terms with this heart-breaking loss, which he never really got over; sadly, Mary died in 2005.

He had many interests, the most important one being supportive of his family, researching the family tree, gardening especially his greenhouse (growing tomatoes), being a member of local history society (helping with the origins of local street names), Jack was very much part of the local community.

Jack was raised in a Methodist family attending Mautland Street Methodist Chapel, then St Michael's, Houghton and latterly St Matthew's, Newbottle. After much persuasion by many Jack joined St Matthew's Lunch Club, Thursday becoming a very important day for him, meeting friends and enjoying a homemade wholesome meal.

Jack lived independently until June 2019 when it was necessary for him to move into Residential Care for the last few months of his life.

Jack Died 9 March 2020. He is a huge loss to the family.

# Somewhere over the rainbow



Rainbows have, over the past few weeks, appeared in Newbottle and throughout the country. People have been putting rainbows in their windows with the aim to cheer up passers-by.

But they do more than that they offer a message of hope. Rainbows have been used for a long time as a symbol of peace and hope as they often appear when the sun follows a heavy rainfall. They remind us that there is hope and light to follow, even after dark times.

And what better place than St Matthew's railings for a rainbow to appear?

Jesus our hope and light in these dark uncertain times. Remember the road to Emmaus in when Jesus walked with the two friends, showing us that Jesus our hope and light does walk with us every step of the way and is there for us always even at times when we are lonely or worried.

So a big thank you again to our Crafty Church leaders for the beautiful rainbow that gives us hope. The reading in the bottom corner is Galatians 5 v21-22 "The Fruits of the Spirit." Just read the words around the rainbow, they are just some of the things that are going on around us today and are a message to us all.



# VE DAY 75

Victory in Europe Day, generally known as VE Day (United Kingdom) or V-E Day (North America), is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8 May 1945, or in other words the end of WW2 in Europe. It was a huge event then and was about to be celebrated in style this year for its 75th anniversary.

VE Day 75 community and country-wide celebrations were due to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 8th – 10th May. Unfortunately due to the coronavirus, these have had to be cancelled. It is right and proper that people should be kept safe and healthy.

However we have been encouraged to undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of our own homes, by standing up and raising a glass of refreshment of our choice with the following 'Toast' – "To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

The British Legion invite us to watch and sing along to "We'll meet again", on BBC One 9pm on Friday 8th May as part of their VE Day broadcast.





## Reaching out with Smart Speakers!

In 2018 the Church of England launched its Alexa skill, enabling millions of users to ask the Church of England for prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and location-based information about local church events and services. For anyone who doesn't know, the Amazon Alexa is a virtual assistant controlled by voice interaction.

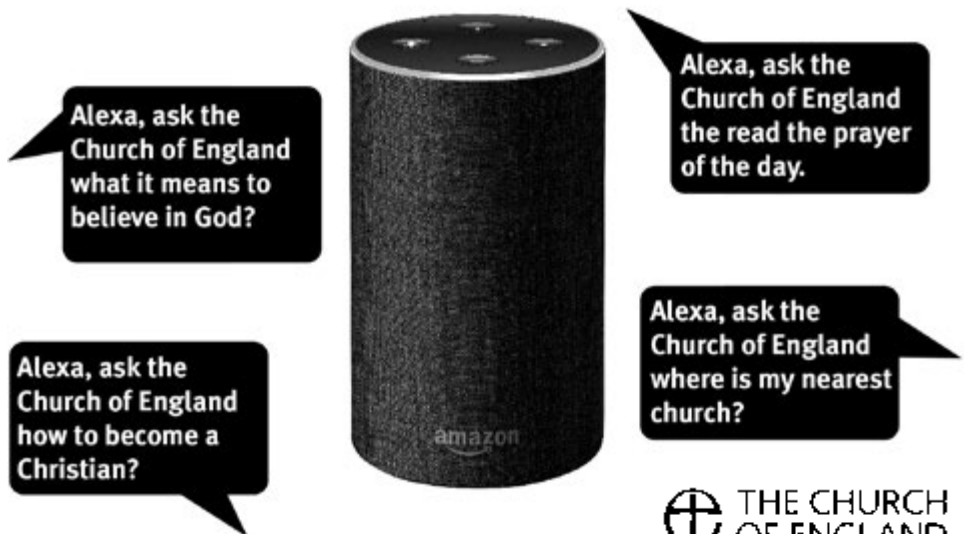
Daily prayer resources are central to the Alexa skill, with the prayer for the day, as well as morning, evening and night-time prayers and a grace before meals all specially recorded.

The skill is also integrated with 'A Church Near You' – the national church-finder that gets 13 million page views a year to find the

nearest services and events; St. Matthew's included! It also seeks to increase users' knowledge of the Christian faith by answering questions such as: What is the Bible? Who is God? What is a Christian?

While the Alexa skill was launched first, the Church of England shortly after launched this service for Google Home as well, as a quarter of UK households now own a smart home device. This is great news for Christian outreach, as it's a modern way of using technology to enable regular churchgoers and those exploring faith to connect with God in another way at a time that's right for them. Isn't technology wonderful - and in this time of isolation, embracing these amazing digital resources can help us through.

## Alexa/Hey Google ask the Church of England



## Newbottle Coalfield Heroes from the World Wars

John Walls, Digital Inclusion Officer, based at Hetton Hub, has been organising local displays of men who gave up the lives in the 2nd World War. He is going to display information on those who came from Newbottle.

The Digital Inclusion project funded by Sunderland Coalfields SIB/Neighbourhood fund has started to create a Newbottle Heroes memorial wall celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day and remembering everyone from the area who served their country during the Second World War.

The family tree group at St Matthew's helped with the research and there must be a special mention for Margaret Henderson for her excellent work.

At the Hetton Hub they recorded over 100 casualties for WW2, whereas the Newbottle area didn't have as many so they have included some WW1 casualties from the St Matthew's churchyard and also information about Joyce Dixon and her husband for their services, so the Newbottle version had a wider appeal.

They have created versions of the project for each locality of Newbottle, Hetton, Herrington and Shiney Row and then collected them all together and produced an electronic book and a paperback version of the book, and is also on Amazon it is called the Coalfield Heroes.

If you know of any relatives, John and his team would love to include them in this project as they will be doing updates for Armistice Day, so they are still taking names and details. The project uses their existing photo restoration and family tree classes as well as lots of hard work from volunteers.

The posters and certificates were originally going to be displayed in Newbottle church and community hall and there is also going to be a separate file containing the soldiers memorial certificates to be kept at the church for people to look through. Obviously this has been put on hold due to the coronavirus lockdown..

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# Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May



## About Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is a joyful celebration of our potential to change the world through our gifts, prayers and actions. Together, we raise funds to support our poorest sisters and brothers around the world. Coronavirus means Christian Aid Week is very different this year. But we hope supporters like you will do all you can to make it the same life-changing and joyous week we've run since 1957.

## Your gifts will save lives

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours near and far.

Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands.

With your support, we can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap and water.

Send an e-Envelope today and save lives.

**Click to Donate**

*giftaid it*

If you're a UK taxpayer you can boost your donation by 25% at no extra cost.



# Eggs and Emojis

On Easter Sunday there was a special service on our Facebook for children and young people at 10.00am. Tom broke a chocolate Easter egg open to reveal an empty inside, which showed Jesus was not in the tomb and he used a bag of sweets to explain that through Jesus' death and resurrection we have the promise and gift of everlasting life. Tom and the children then walked through the events in the garden using emoji face props (emoji faces stuck on sticks), to show the emotions on the women's faces from sad when Jesus died, to surprise at the empty tomb, afraid when they saw the angel, to sheer happiness when they found that Jesus was alive. Just something a little different for the young people, something that hopefully we can do on a regular basis in the future.



# Wild Flower Garden

It's lovely to see the bright sunshine - the spring flowers in our Churchyard have been glorious this year. One good thing to arise from our 'lockdown' during the current crisis, is the opportunity for many people to enjoy walks around our village. I wonder how many visitors to our Churchyard have noticed some 'different' flowers as they walk through the gates. We now have a wild flower garden, created by Janette in memory of her Dad, to the right of the gates beneath the big sign board. Thanks to the lovely spring weather, many of the

seeds have germinated all ready, but I have been informed that some will take 2 years to grow! There should be flowers of interest to a wide variety of little visitors, and hopefully we should see many of them over the summer.

We have another project in hand for our Churchyard, but that will have to wait until after 'lockdown'. Watch this space!

Jacqui Harriman



# SCHOOL EASTER SERVICE



Our annual school Easter service was due to take place on 30 March, but we had to cancel as both St Matthew's and Newbottle Primary Academy being closed due to the lockdown. The children however had already been working hard on their art work to be displayed in church over Easter. This year's task was to fill crosses and hearts with individual hands coloured in by the children to show we are all different, all individuals, but all loved by Jesus.

The week before lockdown Tom had arranged to collect the completed work from school, and they are currently being safely stored in Tom and Sue's dining room. But don't worry all that hard work is not in vain. Once St Matthew's building reopens the crosses and hearts will be displayed in church for all to see.

There may be special times you could come to see them, or special services to enable the children to come and visit and see their lovely artwork. We don't know as yet what will be happening, so please keep an eye out on our Facebook page, or website. Finally, everyone at St Matthew's hopes and prays that all children and staff at our local school are safe and well.







# Lights, Camera Phone, Action



Following the lockdown on 23rd March and the closure of the church for regular worship, we had to think differently about our Passiontide and Easter celebrations together. We needed to keep as many people involved, informed and together, as the family of God. So we decided social media was the way ahead, as well as regular updates which we call "News from the pews". On Passion Sunday we had a trial to see, not just what people thought, but also if the person presenting needed additional thespian training! Tom himself admitted that his Equity card would not be in the post soon.

Then it was into regular Facebook services being streamed through Holy Week. It started with Christ's triumphant journey on a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, with short informal services every day, including the Passover or, as we know it the Last Supper, where Jesus broke the bread and shared the wine. Eddy lead us in worship at 2.45pm on Good Friday, as we walked with Jesus to the cross and His death. During the service Eddy read out the verses of that wonderful hymn, "When I survey the wondrous cross". At 3.00pm we remembered that Christ died for us, that our sins can be forgiven. Finally on Easter Sunday, we joined Eddy at 10.00am and celebrated Christ's resurrection from the dead and the promise of new life. Phew!!! It was quite a journey that week.

These services have averaged around 90 views. Streamed services are obviously something we're going to have to consider in the future. Perhaps, in these difficult times we have been shown the way ahead.





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# Daily Hope

**The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.**

Daily Hope, which is available from 26th April, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

The service is supported by the Church of England nationally, as although thousands of churches across the country are now running services and prayer groups online while public worship remains suspended, many people – especially older people – do not have access to the internet.

The line also recognises the impact of social distancing restrictions and self-isolation measures on those suffering from loneliness.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group

Archbishop Justin said:

*"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.*

*"The Daily Hope service will allow people to hear hymns, prayers and words that offer comfort and hope, especially in this Easter season.*

*"I want to urge people to spread the news about this service. If there is someone you know who is particularly struggling, give them a call and let them know about the Daily Hope. I'm going to phone a friend; will you join me?"*



# Philadelphia Cricket & Community Club

Chairman Malcolm Pratt Tel: 0191 3890484

Clubhouse Tel: 0191 5841348

Manager Paul Thompson Tel: 0779 0094 116



We have cancelled the festival due to take place in June but will be looking into the possibility of rearranging it for sometime later in the year, depending on circumstances.

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY

We are hopeful that the Fireworks Display will go ahead on Saturday 7th November but again this depends on developments in the coming months.

## Looking to Party

We continue to take bookings for our function room which will re-open when the government advise it is safe to do so.



### WEBSITE

We have a new website which is regularly updated and you may like to keep checking for news.

## Notices & Information

In memory of Kim Harriman on his birthday,  
from Jacqui, Janette and Toby.

Birthday memories of a dear husband and  
dad, from Maud and family.

Birthday memories of a dear brother in  
law, from Kate and Harry.

## 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.

## WANTED



### **Anyone with a bit of spare time**

**To help deliver some of  
these church magazines**

**We deliver magazines to  
around 2000 homes in  
Newbottle Parish and need  
some help.**

**Get in touch with  
Vera Marshall at  
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***If you have some local news or an article about  
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*Andrew Grey*

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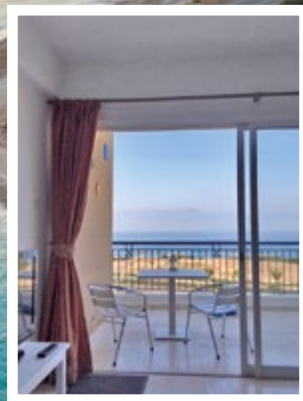
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## St. Matthew's Church & Community Hall

...part of the local community spirit

### Weekly Timetable

DAY	TIME	CLUB
Monday	10.30am-11.30am	Tiny Talk (Sarah)
Monday	1.00pm-2.30pm	Computer Skills (John)
Monday	6.30pm-8.30pm	Judo (Brian)
Tuesday	9.30am-12.00noon	
Tuesday	6.30pm-8.30pm	
Wednesday	10.30am-1.30pm	Fit and Be Fit
Wednesday	2.30pm-4.30pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	6.00pm-7.30pm	Karate (Ed)
Friday	10.10am to 11am	Zumba Gold (Janet)
Sunday	5.30pm-6.30pm	Karate (Ed)

**CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19**

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

[www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org](http://www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org)

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

