

St. Matthew's Church Newbottle

January - February
2020

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

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

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

St Matthew's Church Clergy

Vicar

Rev. Edward Wilkinson.

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From our Registers

Confirmations: 9th November

Tiffany Nell.

Terry Allen.

Steven Medd.

Wedding: 28th December

Karl Michael Dean & Holly Louise Clowse.

Funeral: 20th November
13th December
2nd January

Hazel Green.

Edward Hogg Lynn – "Bob".

Jane Kirtley Welsh – "Jean".

Burial of Ashes: 4th December
8th December

Mary Annie Ferguson.

Kim Harriman.



Vicar's Voice

At the start of a new year, let alone the start of a new decade, which we do this January, it is a good time to reflect on what's gone before us, learn from past mistakes and successes, and plan for the future to the best of our ability in a positive way. The amazing thing is that no matter how carefully we look to learn from past events, what things went badly or went really well, there is a tendency for us to make and often repeat past mistakes, or even find new ones. In the life of the church, if we look at what we might consider a success in the past and then try to do the same at a future time, often we learn that something that worked in the past no longer works for us, it's time has passed.

We constantly need to be learning from the lessons of the past and planning for the future, with an open mind and a willingness to go where the spirit of God is leading us. We need to be brave and adventurous in our journey of faith, which I have to admit doesn't necessarily come easily to the Church or Church members. Safety first seems to be the default path we follow, and risk avoidance comes all too easily because it is reassuring – "Don't take any chances and there's less possibility of making a mistake" but there's also a smaller chance of making genuine progress.

In the Church's calendar, we're now in the season of Christmas and Epiphany, which is when we remember that God in the birth Jesus, came to reveal himself to us. God took a risk in being born as we all were, so that we might know what it's like to be like him and he like us. No matter how carefully we plan things, whenever we plan

anything, there is always an element of risk involved. God understands that because he has lived the human experience that we all live. There is tremendous sadness in life and there is tremendous joy in life, and these times punctuate our existence. When I sit with a family and reflect over a loved one's life prior to a funeral, it's the highs and lows that are remembered; the everyday things drift into obscurity.

Often someone has said to me something like "My mam was a tremendous knitter – she made Christmas jumpers for all the family especially the kids" or "My mam made the best chocolate cake ever"; or perhaps "My dad could fix anything" or "My dad was always there when we needed him". The point is that those we cherish and love, our parents for instance, put real time, effort and energy into doing their best for us. When we stretched our wings and mistakes occurred, they were there to pick us up, dust us down and do their best for us, to make sure we got ourselves on our feet again. Sometimes the dusting down could be painful and upsetting for all concerned – as has been said on many occasions: "Tough love is often the hardest but the best kind of love to give".

May the light of Christ and the love of the Father guide us along the journey of this life. May we as a community cherish and value everyone we come across, as each and every one of us is cherished and loved by God. Some might think it's a bit risky or too much of an ask, but we Christians are called to make the world a kinder, more loving place and we should at least try.

Eddy Wilkinson.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Prayer for the Australian Bush Fires

God of compassion,
look upon the land of Australia and heal it,
and deliver it from fire and destruction.

As we stand in prayer before you
for all who are suffering,
be with those who seek to bring this crisis to an end.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



WiFi in Church
Coming Soon...



Good news folks - we've taken the first steps to getting wi-fi into church! A post box registered to church now means we can apply to get wi-fi installed, so look out for our announcement soon!





Kim Harriman 1953-2019

It was with the greatest of sadness that we heard the tragic news of Kim's sudden and unexpected death. It was within weeks of Kim's pending confirmation at church.

Kim was born 24th February 1953, at Easington to Jack and Sarah. Kim was their second child. He has a much loved sister, Gloria. When he was 1 year old the family moved to St Aiden's Terrace at New Herrington. At school he met his lifelong friend Terry. Even as a boy Kim enjoyed gardening as well as cycling. He was a patient, quiet lad, and after school he went to work at Walker's the jewellers, repairing watches and clocks. Later he worked at a gent's outfitters and then for the Civil Service and finally, before retirement worked as a financial advisor with the Co-op.

Kim, and his wife, met at a disco in Silksworth Hall in March 1974 and married at St Matthew's on 18th September 1976. After waiting nearly 10 years for the birth of John, their family was blessed again 3 years later with the birth of Janette. Kim always said this gave them the perfect family, and his life was centred around his family.



In his early 50's, at Christmas 2004, Kim retired from the Co-op to enjoy his retirement. Sadly in November 2005 he was diagnosed with Leukaemia and went through all the usual treatments over a 2 year period or so, but it was only after "Stem Cell" treatment and receiving a new immune system, that Kim fully recovered.

In 2008 Kim and Jacqui bought a touring caravan which they greatly enjoyed using for holidays. In 2010 Kim had his first foreign holiday in France, travelling across the channel on the ferry with all the family including the grandchildren.

Kim attended our church functions such as quiz evenings, fairs and BBQ's etc... but most folk will remember him taking his dog Toby for a walk around the village and the churchyard, stopping to talk to people as he went.

Jacqui and the family are shocked and devastated at Kim's sudden and totally unexpected passing. To them he was a "Larger than Life" character who was at the centre of their lives and who fought as hard as he could against his illness to remain with them. He is greatly loved and treasured and will never be forgotten.

Generous Giving

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated so generously at Kim's funeral. A donation of £510 has been sent to Leukaemia UK in his memory. As many people are aware, we were given 12 precious years following his transplant in 2007, and this was because of the invaluable research funded by the charity. Many thanks from Jacqui Harriman and family

Also we raised £282 for the Leprosy Mission from Joe Osman's funeral

Colin Wakefield's funeral raised £2292.20 through donations and a Just Giving page for St Benedicts Hospice..

RUNNING BEAR MEETS RUDOLPH

Tuesday 10th December saw the Washington Ukulele Band descend on St Matthew's for a bit of midwinter mischief. The first half of the programme was a range of well known oldies that we all sang along to, and even indulged in a little swaying. We do love our pop concerts! There was a Buddy Holly number, the Everley Brothers' "All I have to do is dream" and "Running Bear", complete with Indian drums, a river and some improvisation from Running Bear and a little Indian maid. Great fun! After a refreshment break and

much chat the second half resumed with lots of festive frivolity. Again, everyone enjoyed singing along to such favourites as, "White Christmas", "Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer" (red noses were worn for this piece), the "Calypso Carol" and Boney M's "Mary's Boy Child", to name but a few. It was a warm and festive atmosphere, with lots of cheer. We would like to thank everyone in the band for an evening of great entertainment. They brought the fun and anticipation of Christmas to Newbottle.



75th Anniversary of VE Day

Bank Holiday is NOW on 8th May

May Day Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4th to Friday 8th





FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD



There was no sign of Scrooge at the Luncheon Club's Christmas Lunch. The superb team had dressed the Jubilee Room at the church hall with a tree, decorations and tables that looked good enough for a King. There were sparkly lights everywhere, and beautiful table decorations as well as crackers. Sitting under the tree were two sacks of pressies. Santa isn't just for children! This was a no holds barred, Christmas extravaganza! And that was before the food was served! It was a Christmas feast with roast turkey and ALL the trimmings, followed by Eton Mess, cheese board then a choice of Christmas cake, mince pie, biscuits or mints, all washed down with a choice of wine or soft drink. Then there was coffee or tea, followed by a present and a tree decoration for everyone present. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it, as did all of Santa's elves who had prepared, cooked and served the meal. The elves also enjoyed a glass of cheer and a natter when everything was washed and cleared away!



Carols by Candlelight Service

Sunday 15th December saw the church packed with over 200 people for our annual Carol service. There was a warm welcome for all and everyone enjoyed singing carols in the candlelit church. The church looked beautiful and the tree and star were resplendent. There was such a warm feeling to the evening as everyone joined together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Many old friends had returned and many new people came together. It was joyful and uplifting. Tom did a short talk on how busy the run up to Christmas is, so much so that we can forget what Christmas is really all about. It is all about love and joy and peace.



Newbottle Primary Academy Christmas Service

Mrs Claire Shield, headteacher, opened the service saying she hoped the children would use their best singing voices as they had the previous week at their school Christmas shows. Tom then announced the first song, Sparkle and Shine, which the children sang, complete with actions. The next song, sung by Reception, was "A Squash and a Squeeze". This reminded us all how full Bethlehem was when Jesus was born. Each year group sang and Year 6 also did the 4 readings and their own prayers. Also included in the service was a video performed by children of St Paul's church in New Zealand, telling the Nativity story. Tom then asked who was excited for Christmas and the reply nearly lifted the roof off St Matthew's. He then

asked what they thought the main reason for Christmas celebrations was and reminded the children that it is to celebrate the greatest gift of all - The baby Jesus himself. Eddy, the vicar finished off the service with a blessing, but first of all explained to the children what a blessing actually is. He told them they are a blessing to their parents and that a blessing is when someone does something good for someone else and how it makes you feel warm and happy inside.

We at Newbottle church felt blessed to have all the children celebrating Christmas at our church. It truly is a very special event, or as the last song said, "It is the most wonderful time of the year"!



And a huge Thank You to Nieve from Year Six who sent a note and picture thanking us for the service, which she says would be her last before leaving.



Rocking Around The Christmas Tree

A truly great night was had by all at this event on Tuesday 17th December. Over 90 attended, with some from Newbottle, Houghton and Chilton Moor. Some "came from afar", well Middlesbrough to be exact! Many were dressed in their finest Christmas jumpers and this year some had bells and sparkling lights on. Technology has gone wild!

Eddy, the vicar opened up with a prayer, then Malcolm introduced each of the well-known carols, with a bit of a chat here and there. He told us a Christmas jumper might just be for Christmas, but Jesus is for all year. During the interval there were mince pies aplenty, scones and cakes, served with a choice of sherry, port, wine, mulled wine or fruit juice. There was much merriment and chat.

After the interval everyone returned to their seats in the anticipation of more carols to

enjoy. Tom introduced these carols as well as telling some pretty dire Christmas, dad sort of jokes. One example was, "What's a sheep's favourite Christmas song? - All I want for Christmas is ewell!" We must keep him away from the cracker jokes! We sang, "Once in Royal David's City" as a round with the Rev. John Barron from Houghton Parish helping out. There was such a lovely, happy, fun atmosphere, but it was very poignant too. In the blessing Eddy hoped everyone would walk with Jesus this Christmas.

We rounded the evening off with a group photo in front of our Christmas tree.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Derek, our organist, who led us well, in spite of Tom's last minute adlibbing & changes.

As well as having a great night we raised £80 for the Save the Children Christmas Jumper appeal. This money goes towards helping to change a child's life.





We had our annual Christmas Fayre on the last Saturday of November. There was a great atmosphere, a variety of stalls, bargains galore and unusual gift ideas. The hall looked beautiful and welcoming and Santa was in attendance in his grotto up on the stage. Mrs Claus had kindly allowed him to take a day off from his work at the North Pole!

As well as the stalls there were several raffles and tombolas and tea, coffee and cakes being served in



Matthew's Christmas Fayre







the Jubilee room. The very willing volunteers were all kept busy and the marvellous sum of £1300 with thanks to Joanne and Charles doing a carboot sale which made £40, so even more for the Christmas Fayre. A huge thank you to all volunteers and to everyone who so kindly supported this annual event.

Christmas Fayre Stalls	
Jams	62.30
Jewellery	32.75
Toys	38.50
Door	24.00
Grand Raffle	245.10
Christmas Stall	28.40
Christmas Gifts	43.00
Books	40.13
White Elephant	229.84
Christmas Cards	85.00
Mulled Wine	10.65
Cake Stall	83.02
Bags and Bottles	84.50
Tombola	87.00
Santa	47.00
Toy Tombola	42.00
Teas	76.89
TOTAL	1260.08

Raffle Prizes			
1st	Hamper	144	Nancy Lawson
2nd	Vodka	1827	John Brewis
3rd	Whiskey	703	Terry
4th	M & S Voucher	525	Paula Gillett
5th	Fruit Basket	720	M Patrick
6th	Port	1692	Malcolm Adamson
7th	Sherry	1547	Laura Wilkinson
8th	Martini	621	Tom Dick
9th	Prosecco	1616	Becca Dick
10th	Wine and Bucket	482	Shefford
11th	Red Wine	053	Wilf Harrison
12th	Ringtons Gift Set	377	M Jordison
13th	Box Heroes	1701	M Adamson
14th	Shortbread	1589	W Connolly
15th	Chocolate Hamper	364	Fiona Eden
16th	White Wine	174	M Gallant
17th	Victoria Biscuits	321	S Towers
18th	Red Wine	1495	Ethan
19th	Gift Set	623	T Dick
20th	Biscuits	634	Noreen
21st	Christmas Jumper	282	W Connolly
22nd	Jar Chocolates	122	M Gallant



Christingle

at St. Matthew's

The service was on Christmas Eve. Eddy, the vicar lead the service and Malcolm gave the talk and showed a short Nativity animation film. During the service everyone was given a Christingle - an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Jesus shed on the cross. The dried fruits and sweets represent God's creation, though some take them to mean the four seasons. Finally the lit candle symbolises Jesus, the light of the world.

This custom began in the Moravian Church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn, in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville decided to give the children

a symbol to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Much later, in 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adopted the Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England.

The Christingle service attracted a number of people who we haven't seen before. It was good to welcome them. Many thanks to Will Render who donated the oranges and all those who made the Christingles.

This year, at Newbottle St Matthew's we raised £254 for The Children's society. This goes to support vulnerable children and young people, such as those in this country living in poverty and those with mental health problems.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The rector and Mothers' Union members of Holy Trinity church, Washington welcomed Mothers' Union members from all branches to a Mothers' Union service of celebration and rededication to the new deanery of Chester-le-Street and Houghton on Monday 6 January. We took our banner along to be placed beside other branch banners in the chancel. During the service officers for the new deanery were commissioned and all members reaffirmed their promise to uphold and support the Aim and Objects of the Mothers' Union. After the service lots of lovely cakes were placed before us and members enjoyed meeting up again and getting to know others within the new deanery.



Philadelphia Cricket & Community Club

Clubhouse Tel: 0191 5841348

Manager Paul Thompson Tel: 0779 0094 116



Looking to Party

There's no better venue in the area than our superbly appointed function room.

Whatever the occasion just get in touch with manager Paul who will be happy to make your arrangements.

Music & Beer Festival

Returns for a sixth consecutive year and will be held from Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th June.

Another great line-up of bands is planned.
More information in the next edition.

Last year, Saturday was a sell-out so you are advised to book your tickets early.

Play the Game

Would you like to play cricket or have you a youngster who is interested.

We cater for all ages from five years upwards. Winter coaching for adults and youngsters is currently taking place.

Last season, 79 youngsters ranging in age from five to 18 joined the club so if you have a boy or girl who would like be involved, please get in touch with chairman Malcolm Pratt on 0191 3890484.

Northern National Restoration Group *Back on the Buses*

EXCITING update!! The Northern National Restoration Group (NNRG) have now moved their collection of buses to the former Philadelphia Power Station site. This will allow for the expansion and restoration of the collection, eventually allowing for access to the public who will be able to visit the site and view the buses.

Councillor Kevin Johnston visited the site recently and met with Craig Smith from the Northern National Restoration Group to see the progress that has been made.

Cllr Johnston said "This is great news for the site and the next step along in the process with this project. Copt Hill Ward Councillors will continue to support the NNRG and the plans to help restore the Grade ii listed building into a potential community venue."

#LoveWhereYouLive



KAIZEN KAI KARATE GROUP



We went to English championships at ponds forge Sheffield on the 16th November. Amelia Robinson won Gold for girls kumite (fighting), Calib Dickinson won Gold for boys kumite, Harry Smiles silver and Ollie Smiles bronze in the same event. Also, a great result in that Emily Wright won silver in the woman's under 60kg and bronze in the women's open. Divinea Thandi and Tiffy Lincoln won bronze in girls kumite.

Well done to all - fantastic results for the group!

Ed Gillespie

Notices & Information

FABRIC FUND

Birthday memories of all loved ones, also
Christmas memories of a very loving family.
From Kate, Maud & families

Donation from Sylvia Winspeare

Happy Christmas memories of a loving mam &
dad, Ellen & Jack Wilson. From John & Rita

Donation in memory of Margaret Mason, from
Angie & Dawn

Anonymous Donation

Donation from Mrs. Pat Lawson

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French
Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 9.30am on the following

Friday 3rd 10th 17th 24th 31st January

Friday 7th 14th 21st 28th February

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers

In loving memory of family members at
Christmas Time

Anniversary and Fond Christmas Memories of
Mam and Dad, Gran and Granda Peg and Jack
Smith sadly missed always from Carole Brian
and Family

In memory of Mam and Dad from Dorothy
Beaumont

Donation for Christmas Flowers

Donation for flowers for Christmas in memory
of Bill Towers from Enid and Family

Anonymous donation for flowers

Many thanks for those over the year who gave
donations to the flower fund.

The church looked especially beautiful at
Christmas and many compliments were made
when we had our services. Especially we
remember those who are no longer with us but
were in our hearts this Christmas time.

Sunnyside Methodist Church

Donation to Flower fund.

In loving memory of Una and the families at
Christmas, from Brian.

Remembering with love a dear sister
Margaret on her anniversary, from Jean,
Ron & family.

Church Anniversary Service.

Our church anniversary service was held
on Sunday 1st December, celebrating 120
years of worship at Sunnyside. Rev. Steven
Hill conducted the service and afterwards we
entered fellowship with a tea and celebration
cake.

Audrey Armstrong.

Members at Sunnyside Methodist Church
were saddened to learn of the death of
Audrey Armstrong. Audrey came to live on
the Burnside Estate and joined Sunnyside
in 1957. She immediately became an active
member and was highly influential in setting
up the "Young Wives Group" in 1960. Indeed
she was secretary of the group for 28 years.
In 2009, Audrey moved into sheltered
accommodation at the "Two Castles" in
Houghton and because of her change in
circumstances, relinquished her membership
at Sunnyside after 52 years. However, she
was able to attend services of worship at
the "Two Castles" on a regular basis. These
were led by members of other churches
in Houghton. Audrey's active membership
at Sunnyside is well remembered and our
thoughts and prayers are with her family at
this time of bereavement.



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.

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Find me on Facebook - Dancing for Fitness with Janet Webster

*Come and try it -
for £1 in January*

£1

**Price per class
£3.50**





Spring Term
Open For Booking!
St Matthew's Church Hall
Newbottle
Mondays starting
6 January 2020
12 weeks @ £60*
6 weeks @ £33
10.30am - 11.30am
 *Price increases to £66 from 7 December

Join the fun - book now!

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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	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 the Vicar**

wilkinson.edward.rev@gmail.com

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

www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org

We're on Facebook
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