

St. Matthew's Church Newbottle

March - April 2020

WE NEED YOU!

See page 14

*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

St Matthew's Church Clergy

Vicar

Rev. Edward Wilkinson.

Tel: 0191 584 3244

Email: wilkinson.edward.rev@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Joy Warren.

Email: warren.joy32@outlook.com

Tom Dick

32 Atherton Drive, Chilton Moor.

Tel. 0191 385 4624

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

Diocesan Readers:

Tom Dick

32 Atherton Drive, Chilton Moor.

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Susan Dick, Vera Marshall, Julie Gibson

Charles Martin

If you have some local news or an article about the Newbottle area, then email it to: veramarshall1@hotmail.com

From our Registers

Christening 16th February

George James Young.

Funeral: 27th January

Dorothy Hall.

Burial of Ashes: 16th January

Edward Hogg Lynn "Bob".



Vicar's Voice

Through the internet, newspapers, radio and television, we have more and more information about every subject under the sun bombarded at us, at what seems to be an ever increasing speed. It's as though those who run "The Media", whoever they are, are saying to us, "You should know about this, (whatever this may be on any particular day) because it's important". At the moment we're being urged to wash our hands regularly throughout the day with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time, to help stop the spread of a particularly nasty virus. The necessity of regular hand washing might seem like stating the obvious to many, but as doctors are particularly stressing this at the moment to help stop the spread of all germs all the time, it would seem some folk aren't aware of this.

Trying to make sense of all the information and the experiences we go through in our daily lives is never an easy task, not least of all because we can feel overwhelmed by all the useful, well intentioned advice that's offered. Ideally, I suppose we need to make space and time in our busy, hectic lives, to quietly reflect on things and how they affect us and those closest to us. The 40 days of lent begin on Ash Wednesday, reflecting the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness contemplating his own life. It was after the 40 days of prayer and fasting were over, Jesus gathered his disciples to him and started establishing the kingdom of God by spreading the good news that God cares for everyone equally.

There are still a few folk today who are able to and choose to go on a classic prayerful retreat. However, many would say they like to spend a few quiet days away unwinding from the hustle and bustle of daily living. This could be a walking holiday, possibly having a few days reading by the pool in the sun, both of which in a way are a kind of retreat. It gives time to reflect on life, to sort one or two things out, recharge the spiritual batteries so to speak and return refreshed and re-invigorated.

Walking the dog around the village or the churchyard early in the morning is a peaceful and reflective way to start the day, or in the evening to end the day. For me cutting the grass in the vicarage garden with my ear protectors on, is a noisy, reflective quiet time – the outside world is shut out. I'm sure everyone has some way of quietly reflecting on things.

It might not be for everyone, but a lot of people find lighting a prayer candle in church is a very comforting way of expressing to God how they're feeling. I encourage anyone who feels they don't know how to pray or feels they can't pray, to try lighting a prayer candle. This is a simple and quiet way of saying to God, here is something or somebody I really care about, God please take care of them and help me.

Eddy Wilkinson.

Christenings at St. Matthew's Church



16th February - George James Young

Opening the Scriptures



SETTING OUR
HEARTS
ON
FIRE

St. Matthew's **LENT COURSE 2020**

Every Tues from 3rd March
7.00pm - 8.30pm

at St. Matthew's Church
Refreshments afterwards

Lord Jesus, set us on fire
Burn from us all that dims your light.
Kindle an answering flame in lives around:
That darkness may be driven back
And glory stream into this world,
Transforming it with love.



BEAVERS

Scouts

IN CHURCH

It was a cold, dark night in January, but if you looked closely you would spot beavers in church – not the furry kind, but the young, human kind from 1st Herrington Scouts. They were on a mission to have some fun and explore our church.

This energetic colony of around 20 Beavers plus their leaders and helpers, were invited to look round our church building and to take part in an observation challenge.

The busy Beavers were given challenges such as:

- Where can you see a green dragon in church?
- See if you can find tools of a carpenter, up near the altar
- Can you spot a bird of prey in church?

It was a very good treasure hunt that the Beavers were enthusiastic about, and anyone is welcome to come to St. Matthew's Church to do it. You are assured of a warm welcome, with or without fur!





YOU'D BATTER BELIEVE IT WAS PANCAKE DAY!



This year it was a toss up as to whether we had a pancake party. We had almost forgotten about it and it had just crêped up on us. The hall was free on the Saturday morning before Pancake Tuesday so we got ourselves organised.

Someone tried to break the ice at the beginning of the party by cracking a pancake joke, but it just fell flat! About 40 people came and some impatient ones asked if the meal would be long. "No!" we said, "it'll be round!!!" Everyone present either indulged in the pancakes or American style pancakes, topped with lemon or orange or maple syrup. About 100 were consumed. There was no charge, but people kindly left donations which will go to Water Aid. There was a bit of aggression in the kitchen where they were beating the eggs! Poor eggs!

But, yokes aside, Pancake Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday comes right before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Shrove is the past tense of shrive which means presenting oneself to the priest for confession, penance and absolution

(confession, punishment and forgiveness). It's the day when Christians confess their sins in church ahead of Lent. It comes from people doing what Jesus did when he spent 40 days in the desert being tempted. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shiving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

Lots of people use the period of Lent to give up things they really like – sweets, chocolate, biscuits, cake, wine for example. It's a time for contemplation and resisting temptation.



PANCAKE FACTS

It is estimated that 55million eggs are used on pancake Tuesday in UK each year. That's 22million more than every other day of the year.

The largest pancake in the world was cooked in Rochdale in 1994 and weighed 6614lbs, that's 3 tonnes!

CHINESE NEW YEAR PARISH MEAL

We decided to have another parish meal, after the one at Amalfi's at the Sun Inn was so successful. This time someone suggested having a takeaway in the Jubilee room at the church hall. As it was around the time of the Chinese New Year we thought we'd order Chinese food. For those not keen on Chinese food, Italian was ordered. We arrived at about 7ish and had a good natter before sitting down to eat. Everyone took their own choice of drink (hic!) and we enjoyed the tittle as well as our meal. There were fortune cookies and New Year or Christmas cake, as well as a cheese board. There was good banter and jokes throughout the evening and a quick quiz to keep us on our toes.

It's always good to meet up with our church family. Can't wait for the next one!



Happy Mother's Day

Come & join us at our child friendly service,
to say thanks for our mothers.

Sunday 22nd March 9:45am



Yummy Chocolate Easter Eggs

Who doesn't enjoy a creme egg? They are so moreish, children might say lipsmacking and scrumptious. Of course they're loaded with calories, but when we were children we weren't bothered about that. Nowadays we look at them and are convinced they're much smaller than they used to be. Teachers used to buy the whole class one each, before sweets were banned! We have had Easter egg hunts at church for them.

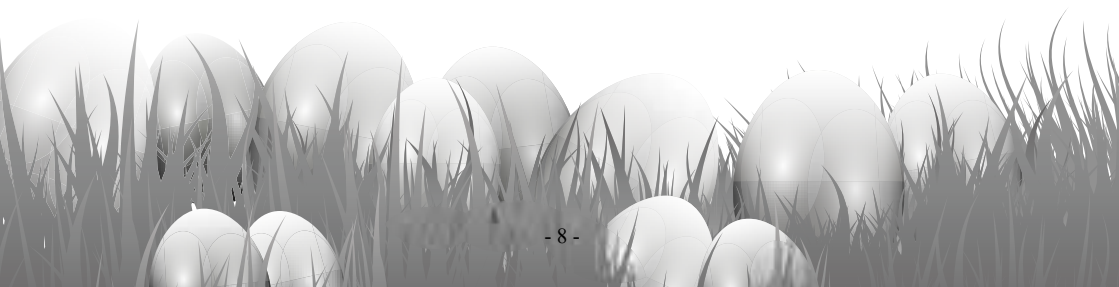
For the earliest man the egg was a symbol of 'fertility', 'rebirth'. 'the beginning', and it ties in quite naturally with the festival of spring. The worship of 'Eostre', the Goddess of dawn was deeply rooted in Germany and was brought to England by the Saxons. With the rise in Christianity in Western Europe, the church adapted many pagan customs to its own purposes and eggs as a symbol of new life, came to represent the Resurrection. Some Christians regarded an egg as the symbol of the stone being rolled away from the tomb.

Eggs are a perfect Easter symbol, and a symbol of new life in Christ, after his death and resurrection.

Consecrated eggs were used by Christians in church ceremonies until the 4th century, when eggs became forbidden during Lent. The practice developed of hard boiling and decorating them in bright colours as a gift for children on Easter Sunday – the end of the Lenten fasting. Prior to the Reformation, eggs were blessed by the Church at Easter time. The earliest Easter Eggs were hen's or duck's eggs decorated and painted in bright colours at home with vegetable dye and charcoal. We can all remember dyeing or painting or decorating an egg at Easter. Schools have Easter egg decorating competitions.

The first chocolate Easter Eggs were made in Europe in the early 19th Century with France and Germany having lead. John Cadbury made his first 'French Eating Chocolate' in 1842, but it was not until 1875 that the first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made. However, it was Fry's who made the first Easter eggs in this country, in 1873. Cream filled eggs first appeared in the 1920s, with Cadbury creme eggs appearing in 1971.

Go on, treat yourself to some Easter egg, the symbol of new life and remember the new life that Christ offers.



Hot Cross Buns

For the buns

500g strong white bread flour

½ tsp salt

2 heaped tsp mixed spice

50g caster sugar

50g butter, chopped into cubes

200g mixed dried fruit

7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast

200ml milk

2 eggs

For the crosses & glaze

3 tbs plain flour

honey or golden syrup, for brushing

What do they mean?...

The eating of hot cross buns marks the end of Lent because they are made with dairy products which are forbidden during this period. Plain buns are traditionally eaten hot or toasted during Lent, beginning on Shrove Tuesday and through to Good Friday.

Different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning. The cross represents the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signify the spices used to embalm him at his burial.

1. Tip the flour into a bowl and stir in the salt, mixed spice and sugar.

2. Rub in the butter with your fingertips. Stir in the dried fruit, then sprinkle over the yeast and stir in. Gently warm the milk so it is hot, but still cool enough to put your finger in for a couple of seconds. Beat with the eggs, then pour into the dried ingredients.

3. Using a blunt knife, mix the ingredients to a moist dough, then leave to soak for 5 mins. Take out of the bowl and cut the dough into 8 equal pieces.

4. Shape the dough into buns on a floured surface. Space apart on a baking sheet, cover loosely with cling film, then leave in a warm place until half again in size. This will take 45 mins-1 hr 15 mins, depending on how warm the room is.

5. When the buns are risen, heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Mix the flour with 2 tbs water to make a paste. Pour into a plastic food bag and make a nick in one of the corners. Pipe crosses on top of each bun.

6. Bake for 12-15 mins until risen and golden. Trim the excess cross mixture from the buns, then brush all over with honey or golden syrup. The buns will keep fresh for a day. After that they are best toasted and served with butter.



NEWBOTTLE PRIMARY



The children at Newbottle Primary Academy have enjoyed a busy Spring term so far.

All year groups took part in Safer Internet Day On Tuesday 11th February and enjoyed different online safety activities throughout the week.

The school robotics team enjoyed designing, building and programming a robot and then took part in a competition at Nissan with other schools. They had to work together alongside another team to score points and then took part in a final match at the end of the day.

The children in Reception were invited to a Bedtime Story Event held

Y ACADEMY GAZETTE



in the hall. The children, adults and teachers had a fantastic time sharing their favourite stories.

Reception also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and took part in a dragon dance around the school. The children waved ribbon wands and played their instruments.

Year One enjoyed being detectives after discovering that aliens had invaded the school! Afterwards they wrote a recount about the unusual events.

We are looking forward to next half term!





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help Rose**

Rose needs every last drop of water
to survive the drought. Donate to
help her stop this climate crisis.

**Christian Aid Week
10-16 May**



TICK TOCK

Time to Spring Forward

**Clocks go forward on
Sunday 31st March.**

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Although our branch membership is very small some of us attend meetings and services at other branch churches. It was good that our branch contact person attended a meeting on Friday 31 January to consider with others from churches within the new deanery of Chester le Street and Houghton the programme for this year. Eileen Bishop from the Bournmoor branch has retired from office of Deanery Leader and Marilyn Bestford from the Lumley branch will take over this position for the deanery. We look forward to interesting meetings and enjoyable services.



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Clubhouse Tel: 0191 5841348

Manager Paul Thompson Tel: 0779 0094 116



It's Back Again Music & Beer Festival

Our popular music and beer festival returns for a sixth consecutive year, from Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th June.

Last year, Saturday was sold out so to avoid disappointment you are urged to buy tickets in advance.

More details in the next edition but also check our website which can be found at

www.philadelphiaccc.co.uk

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Notices & Information

FABRIC FUND

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In loving memory of a very dear brother-in-law. From Kate and Harry.

Christmas memories of all loved ones. From Catherine Morton.

Christmas memories of Ron Maxwell. From Rita.

Loving thoughts of Dorothy Hall, much loved friend who will be sadly missed. Remembering all the good times spent with Dorothy & Dick. Forever in our thoughts. Ada and Alan White.

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 9.30am on the following

No flowers in Church for the period of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday

Easter flowers to be assembled on Saturday 11th April then

Friday 17th 24th April and 1st May

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers

Donation towards Easter Flowers

Donation for Mothering Sunday Flowers

Donations from the Flower Box in Church

Donation from Dorothy Beaumont in memory of Mam and Dad



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
veramarshall1@hotmail.com

***If you have some local news or an article about the Newbottle area, then email it to:
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Easter Services at St. Matthew's Church



Ash Wednesday	Wednesday 26th February	7pm
Mother's Day Service	Sunday 22nd March	9:45am
Joint service at Houghton parish church	Sunday 29th March	6.00pm
Palm Sunday Communion service	Sunday 5th April	9:45am
Palm Sunday Evensong	Sunday 5th April	6pm
Holy Week Communion	Wednesday 8th April	9:30am
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday 9th April	7.00pm
Good Friday Communion Service	Friday 10th April	1.00pm
Good Friday Hour by the Cross Service	Friday 10th April	2.00pm
Easter Sunday Communion service	Sunday 12th April	9:45am
Easter Sunday Evensong	Sunday 12th April	6.00pm

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)

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

www.stmatthewsnewbottle.org

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

