

A white lamb with pink inner ears stands in a lush green field. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH NEWBOTTLE

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Spring 2023

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

Parish of St. Matthew's Newbottle Diocese of Durham

Church Services

Sunday Services

9.45 am Family Worship-

Holy Communion

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion

Church Open

Tuesday 10.00-11am

Wednesday 10.15-11.15am

Church Hall

Church Hall Bookings by Email:

stmatthewshallbookings@gmail.com

St Matthew's Church Clergy

Churchwardens

Tom Dick

Joy Warren

Email: Ewol12@talktalk.net

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From Our Registers

Christenings

2nd October Elijah Ernest Antony Tindale

2nd Oct Zoe Lucy Tindale

16th Oct Eve Hudson

6th Nov Lucas Thomas Petre

19th Feb Jasmine Ava Thornhill

Weddings:

Funerals:

26th Sept Elizabeth Una Soppitt

18th Nov Richard Foster

28th Nov Walter Gaff

9th Dec Peter Godfrey Jacques

19th Jan Yvonne Brown

1st Feb Edna Grant

3rd Feb Keith Metcalf

9th Feb Oswald Young

10th Feb Michael Mackel

17th Feb Ron Brewis

24th Feb Ray Moreton

27th Feb Lynn Branney

Burial of ashes:

12th Oct William Mole

24th Feb Ron Brewis

Churchwardens' Chat

During 2022 we saw some real changes. For one, who would have thought we'd have three Prime Ministers in one year. The restrictions on us all caused by the Covid pandemic eased and we were able to enjoy a more normal Christmas period with our families and friends. But as we look forward even in this time of economic uncertainty and with high energy bills, it would appear exciting times are ahead for us all, and we hope they are exciting good and times for everyone.

In November 2022 our Vicar Edward Wilkinson retired so there are some big changes ahead for us all at St Matthew's as we look towards working together as a group with St Michaels and All Angels, Houghton and St Michaels and All Angels, Easington Lane. There will be changes not just in St Matthew's but also in the two other parishes and communities who we will be working with. We believe God has something exciting in store for us at St Matthew's. We are not closed, as some folks in our parish appear to think, we are open, alive and would love you to come and join us. St Matthew's is alive and focused firmly on Jesus as we work and pray together to reveal and discern God's will in our parishes and communities. There has been a lot of hard work at St Matthew's by "Team Newbottle" and Joy and myself would like to think everyone who has helped and supported us in anyway over the past few months, clergy, laity and our community. We would also like to thank Stephen one of our Readers who has ministered to the bereaved in our community and conducted the majority of our funerals.

In a world where everything is changing all the time and the rate of change seems to be increasing, it is good to have something solid to rely on. Jesus and the lifesaving gospel message has a timeless and eternal quality, which we find very comforting and reassuring. The bible reminds us how committed and faithful God is in His love for us all and creation. He wants the best for each and everyone of us. But so often the choices we make in our lives have knock on effects that we cannot possibly foresee both for ourselves, our family and friends, even for those we will never meet. We must continue to do the very the best we possibly can to live a good and well-meaning life, wholly aware of the needs of others. This doesn't mean that we can't still enjoy life to the full, because we certainly can. God has given everyone life as a blessing and we should do all we can to make sure that everyone, regardless of who we are, the colour we are, where we live, or what religion we may follow or not as the case may be, has the chance to enjoy and make the most of our God given lives no matter where that is, Newbottle or Nepal.

Let's hope that on 31st December 2023 we can reflect back on 2023 and think this has been a good year and that we have looked out for each other both in our communities and the wider world.

Joy and Tom

Farewell Eddy

Our Vicar, Eddy conducted his final service prior to retirement on the 16th October, which also included a baptism. The congregation wanted to give him a good "send off", but Eddy was adamant that he didn't want any "fuss".

With that in mind, we held a small presentation with refreshments at the end of the service, and of course some 'bubbly' for the toast! Joy, one of our Church Wardens said in her heart-warming, farewell speech that Eddy would be much missed, and that it was with sadness we would be saying our

goodbyes. Stephen, a Reader said a special retirement prayer, followed by the toast.

Eddy has ensured that we are left with a well-cared for and maintained church and church hall, for the parish and community. There have been many improvements made over the last thirty years under his leadership.

He and his wife Pauline, leave with our love and very best wishes for a long and happy retirement. We have valued and enjoyed Eddy's friendship and leadership over the last thirty years he was with us.

Christenings at St. Matthew's Church, Newbottle



Sunday 2nd Oct Zoe Lucy Tindale & Elijah Ernest Antony Tindale



Sunday 16th October Eve Hudson



Sunday 6th November Lucas Thomas Petre



Sunday 19th February Jasmine Ava Thornhill

Church Fayre Christmas Extravaganza

After a couple of years absence of our normal, annual Christmas Fayre, it was back! There was a full complement of different stalls – cards, toys, White Elephant, tombola, raffle, cakes, Santa, gifts, and books and refreshments in the Jubilee room. This year we had the gazebos up and decorated with twinkling lights and there was mulled wine.

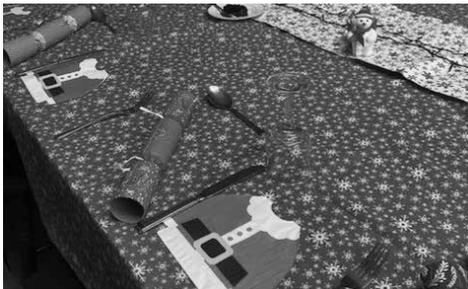
It was such a good feeling for everyone involved, from the making of gifts, baking, setting up of the hall, and manning the stalls. We saw many friends and neighbours and it was good to talk. The Jubilee room quickly filled with people enjoying a cuppa and a cake or scone. There was much banter and dare I say, carrying on!



Such a lovely, enjoyable afternoon for everyone involved or supporting and we made over a £1000 to boot. It is, of course,

the community coming together that is most important element of the day, so a huge thank you to everyone involved or attending.

Christmas lunch club November 2022



Now if you are a lover of a good roast dinner, or if a Christmas day dinner fills you with joy, this is the place to be. The Jubilee Room and tables were beautifully decorated, even to fairy lights down the centre. There had been much action in the kitchen from early in the morning, thanks to Mary, Anne and Dave, the chief chopper of veg and washer up extraordinaire! Mary and Anne had prepared an amazing Christmas lunch

of roast turkey, roast ham, pigs in blankets, roast and mashed potatoes, roast parsnips, carrots, garden peas and sprouts. I bet you're wishing they would rent themselves out on Christmas Day!! Thanks also to Vera and her elf helper and to Mavis, for serving duties and front of house.

The main course was washed down with a glass of wine and followed by a Cadbury's trifle, then a cheeseboard, and a selection of mini mince pies, shortbread, Christmas cake, mints and gingerbread people (!?!). Yum! Yum!

There were crackers to pull, party hats to wear and lots of chat and good humour around the table. It felt that the Christmas season had begun with a sparkle and a bang. The true spirit of Christmas abounded – love and friendship and joy and giving.



Christmas Services 2022

***CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT**

This year's Carol by Candlelight service was very well attended and included members of Houghton's congregation and Rev John Barron, who sang, "The Kings". Houghton's organist, George Peebles, very kindly played for us. Many thanks to both of them. It is always such a beautiful, uplifting service and this year was no exception. Over a hundred attended; we're aiming for even more next year!

***CAROLS AROUND THE TREE**

About 40 attended this informal Carol evening, wearing their Christmas jumpers. It was wonderful to have so many and as the Christmas song goes, the weather that night was frightful! We all enjoyed singing along to the organ, played by George Peebles. Such a lovely warm Christmas event. In the interval we enjoyed a glass of sherry or wine, accompanied by an array of mince pies, biscuits and cheese scones.

***CHRISTINGLE**

On Christmas Eve, in the late afternoon, there was a lovely Christingle service, with carols and a children's Christmas video.

Malcolm led the service and everyone received a Christingle, symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to those living in darkness.

THE SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Such a joy to have 450 children from Newbottle Primary Academy school return for their annual Christmas service. Their theme was Christmas around the World. Each song/carol was introduced by a narrator and each year group sang beautifully. Tom had a short talk and then showed a video of the Christmas nativity. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

* The collections and donations taken at these events and services were shared between The Children's Society, Crisis at Christmas and The Salvation Army. It amounted to £460. An amazing amount considering the current economic climate and huge energy rises.

As well as the above 20 shoe boxes full of gifts and a donation of £20 was given to the Samaritan's Purse charity, this year going to the children in Ukraine.

A massive thank you to all who attended and gave so generously. Thanks also to all those who gave up their time and energy to prepare the church or to provide food and drink for these services and events.

Life's batter with Pancakes!

More than 40 turned up for our annual Pancake breakfast on Saturday 18th Feb. We couldn't believe it was Pancake Day again. It just creped up on us!!

The pancakes were flippin marvellous and were cooked to order. There was a good choice of toppings – lemon juice, orange, golden syrup, maple syrup and even some whipped cream. Poor cream; these aggressive cooks! They beat the eggs too!

Everyone tucked into the delicious pancakes between 10 and noon and enjoyed the tea and coffee too. There was the usual good fellowship and fun and catch ups with friends, while the pancakes were being cooked and served. One chap asked if his breakfast would be long. "No!" came the reply, "It'll be round!" Such a good morning.... We all felt a bit flat when it was all over!

There was no charge, but a box for donations and a raffle. The marvellous sum of £204 was collected and will be given to Water Aid, along with the rest of our lent giving.

Thank you to all our cooks, Anne, Mary and Pat and to all those who helped with the setting up, raffle and washing up.





PIZZA PARTY



Following on from our night out at the Amalfi at the end of August, we decided to have a pizza night in the Jubilee room at the church hall. There was a fantastic turn out of around 30 of us, with an age range of 11 to 90. We even had to extend the table to fit everyone in. We ordered in pizzas and garlic bread from Mama's Kitchen, brought our own drinks, then tucked in. There was plenty of conversation and jokes and even a couple of quiz sheets that lead to even more fun.

Did you hear about the man who took an extra job as a pizza chef? He kneaded the dough!!!
 Why does the mushroom always get invited to parties? Because he's a fungi!!
 And those were the best jokes of the night!

It is always good to meet up to enjoy each other's company and this night was no exception. It was a great atmosphere – one of those nights that you remember for ages. Such great fun! We're already planning the next one – fish and chips! Next time we'll have to have some fish puns and jokes. If you have any good ones drop us a line!



It was with great sadness that we heard of Ron's death. If you attended church you would have known Ron well. He was well liked by everyone, young and old and we all remember his Quiz nights up at the church hall.

He was born in Chester-le-Street and lived at several addresses in Pelton Fell where he attended both St Paul's church and the methodist church. Aged 12 years, he joined the Sea Cadets, progressed through the ranks and at age 30 he retired at the rank of Commanding Officer. He worked for London North Eastern Railways as "a lad number taker", from leaving school, but this was interrupted by his call up for National Service in 1950 until 1952. He was trained within his Royal Navy posting as an electrical engineer, moving on to numerous assignments including testing bombs.

After demob Ron eventually joined the Northern Bus Company as an electrical engineer, passing his PSV license and driving a double decker bus. In 1957 he went on secondment to the SDO and on his first day he met Elsie Wheldon.



Ron Brewis 1932 – 2023

Scotland, and to their treasured caravan in Stanhope.

They finally settled in a bungalow in Rickleton. Ron retired in 1990 and cared for Elsie until her death in 2007. Ron enjoyed several cruises in his late seventies, until his health deteriorated. Ron was a kind, loving and non-judgemental gentleman. He loved and adored Elsie throughout their 48 years of marriage, caring for her every need. In his later years, his love and kindness enveloped his nephew John and his partner Stephen. They in return fulfilled his wishes to be cared for at home. Ron never let them leave without professing his love for them both, as they did in return.

Please Pray For

The people of Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquake. Please continue to pray for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and for all those affected by the terrible impact of war.

Events at St. Matthew's

Lent is for Loving

Our joint Lenten reflection evenings will be held every Wednesday night 7.00pm – 8:30pm from March 1st, at Newbottle church. We will be joined by our brothers and sisters from Houghton and Easington Lane parishes. This year we're using, "Lent is for Loving", a book by Sheila Cassidy. It will help us to reflect on love (L), empathy (E), saying no (N) and thanking God (T).

We hope you can join us for as few or as many sessions as you wish.



Easter Services

We are very fortunate to have the Rev Michael Beck leading all our services over Easter.

Maundy Thursday

6th April 7.00pm at St Matthew's

Good Friday

7th April Hour by the Cross
2.00pm – 3.00pm

Easter Sunday

9th April Family Communion Service 9:45am



Mother's Day



Come and join us on Sunday March 19th at 9:45am for our all age Morning Worship Service

UPDATE FROM THE LEPROSY MISSION

The Leprosy Mission say thank you to everyone who has collected used stamps, postcards and old coins over the years. This has raised thousands.

However due to the decline in value of the se things the charity has had to end this way of fundraising. They will accept collections until March.

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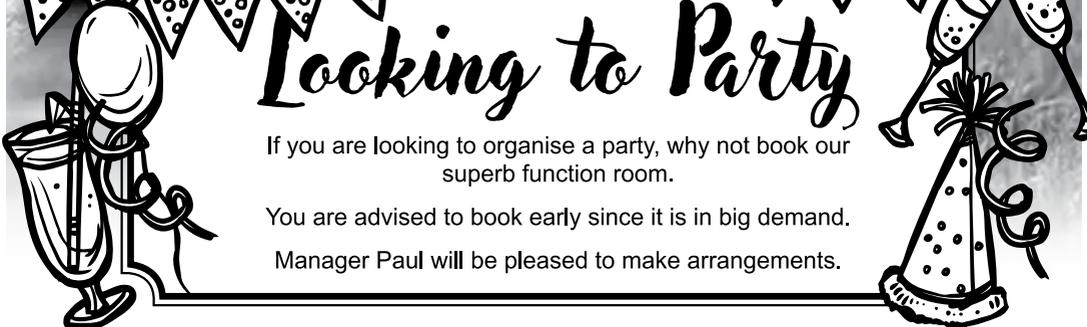
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Notices & Information

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs French Mrs Martin Mrs Lawson
Mrs Eden

Flower preparation 9.00 am on a Friday morning.
All welcome no experience needed.

FLOWER FUND DONATIONS

Flowers in memory of parents Bill and Enid Towers
from Denise and Family

Anonymous donation for flowers

Christmas flowers in memory of a dear Dad

Donation for Christmas Flowers in memory of
parents Ellen and John Wilson from John and Rita

Anonymous donation for flowers

Loving Christmas memories of Mam Dad Gran and
Grandad Peg and Jack Smith loved always from
Carol Brian and Family

Special Christmas memories of Mam Dad Gran
and Grandad Ena and Jim Smith also Brother Brian
loved always from Shirley Barry and Family
Donations from the flower fund box in Church
An anonymous donation
Donation of flowers from the family of Oswald
Young

Manty thanks to all who donated to our flower fund.
The Church looked beautiful at Christmas with the
poles Christmas tree and flower arrangements.

FABRIC FUND

In memory of Tom from Marjorie Galley.

GENERAL CHURCH FUND

In memory of all loved ones from Catherine Morton
Donation from the family of Edna Grant





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DailyHOPE

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reflections and prayers

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Weekly Timetable

DAY	TIME	CLUB
Monday	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Judo (Brian)
Tuesday	10.00am - 12.00noon	Arts & Crafts Club (Kathleen)
Tuesday	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Karate
Wednesday	6.00pm-7.00pm	Zumba
Wednesday	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Powertex (occasionally)
Thursday	12.00pm - 1.30pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Karate
Friday	10.00am - 11.00am	Zumba Gold
Sunday	5.30pm - 6.30pm	Karate (Ed)

*Details correct as April 2022

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

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

