

# St. Matthew's Church Newbottle



Happy  
New  
Year

*January - February 2019*

*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, 7-8pm

#### 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

### 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

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#### Editorial team

Susan Dick, Julie Gibson,

Vera Marshall, Charles Martin

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### From Our Registers:

Baptisms: 16th December

Lucas Myles Munro

Parents :- Lee Mark & Kirsty Diane Munro

Funerals: 13th November

Margaret Gibson

11th December

Matthew Hoggan

7th January

John Whitehead

## Send Us Your Story



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

**smn-magazine@outlook.com**

# CHURCHWARDENS' Chat



A very Happy New Year to you all.

Our Christmas celebrations and services at St Matthew's this year have at times been a little different to normal, with our Vicar Eddy being ill. However, we have tried to keep everything going as close to normal as possible. We ask that you please keep Eddy in your thoughts and prayers for a full recovery, and we hope he will be back with us in the near future.

New Year is a time to look back at the things that have happened in our lives over the previous year. It's a time when we reflect on these things, some of which we treasure, but there are some that we'd really like to erase and forget about all together. We would like all of our memories to be good ones, but not all of them are, and we sometimes wish that we could have the opportunity to change our actions, but we can't. It's a time when we can take stock of where we are and what we did, and if we were completely honest, we would admit there are things we would like to change about ourselves. As we examine our lives for 2019, and begin to make new promises to ourselves, perhaps we should stop trying to live up to the pressures of the society we live in today, and make those changes that would be good for us and good for those around us. We need to make a real resolution to change our lives, a real resolution that will make all the difference to us.

New Year is also a time to look forward, a time full of hope and expectations. This could be by putting things right in our lives, or in some cases a new beginning. It's a time to reflect on what has happened in the past and resolve to improve ourselves for the future. New Year is a time when some of us make New Year Resolutions, where we resolve to be better, or resolve to do something differently, something that may improve our

lives in some way. Some of you, by the time you read this magazine, will have already made and broken all or some of your New Year's Resolutions. The thing about these resolutions is they don't tend to last. But one thing that does last is Jesus's love for us, a love that is never ending and everlasting. Jesus and the Christian gospel are timeless and have an everlasting quality which many of us find very comforting. Jesus came not because we are all perfect, but because we are imperfect and the truth is Jesus can help us to change for the better.

There is something special about a brand new year. There are many fresh opportunities that await us as we go into the year 2019. We know that the past year is history, and so we must look forward with anticipation to the coming year, with the assurance that God is still in control and loves us all. As Christians here at St Matthew's, we know that we move forward in the sure knowledge that Jesus is with us, loving us every step of the way in our lives, throughout the coming year and beyond. He also wants others to have that experience in their lives. So during 2019 why not make a resolution to come and join us on a Sunday at St Matthew's at one of our services listed in this magazine or a special event that is advertised. We can assure you that you will be welcomed with open arms. There was a banner outside a church in Somerset; in fact it may be still there. It said "Jesus, son of a carpenter needs joiners", so why not come and join us at St Matthew's and learn more about that little baby, born in a manger, whose birth we celebrated a few weeks ago and how that can give us a real hope and security for the future.

Best wishes for health and happiness in 2019 and we hope you do come and visit us.

Joy and Tom

# Christenings at St. Matthew's Church



16th December - Lucas Myles Munro

## Confirmation Congratulations



Congratulations to Tilly Lydiatt, Joe Walshaw and Scott Nichol of our congregation, on their Confirmation on Saturday 17th November at Holy Trinity Church in Washington by the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler.



# Thank You

**As New Year honours are bestowed by the Queen, we too would like to express our gratitude to:**

- ★ Derek, our organist who never lets us down
  - ★ Our flower ladies, who always make our church look beautiful
  - ★ Our church cleaning team, who work tirelessly throughout the year
  - ★ The church hall lunch club ladies, who always do a great job
  - ★ The magazine deliverers who give up their time in all weathers to get the news to us
  - ★ Bob Watson, the gardener, who maintains our church grounds
  - ★ Our jam makers in the village who raise considerable funds for us
  - ★ Will Render for donating the oranges for our Christingle service
- and more recently to all those who have stepped in to cover our services in Eddy's absence

We truly appreciate all of their efforts and everyone else who contributes to the fabric of our Church in Newbottle – we are blessed indeed to have such a small but amazing group of people to help our mission!

## *Elsie Raine*

We remember Elsie Raine who was a member of our church fellowship at St Matthew's for many years. Elsie, one of six, was born on 7th November 1923 at Coundon, near Bishop Auckland. She left school at 14 years and became a cook and housekeeper for a short time. She then became apprenticed at hairdressing but had to give that up owing to the start of World War II when she was required to



work at a munitions factory. Factory friends introduced Elsie to Lovat and they were married in 1946. They first lived in rented accommodation at Station Avenue, Fence Houses but after much saving they bought a house at North View Terrace, Chilton Moor. Two daughters came along, Susan and Elizabeth, and they then moved into a bungalow at Newbottle in 1968. Elsie enjoyed her part time work as a home

help and she was much appreciated by those she helped. Along with Lovat's singing in the choir Elsie became involved in the church's need to have the brasses polished and she used much elbow grease to get them shining brightly. Her hand knitted jumpers and cardigans of intricate pattern were much admired and knitting needles were always at her side. When Elsie was

unable to fully care for herself she moved to The Laurels Nursing Home at Hetton where she said the staff were always considerate and kind. Elsie died on 14th November and her ashes are shortly to be laid to rest with those of Lovat in our churchyard.



## I can hear the bells



If you enjoy films and stage shows you may well know and love the song, "I can hear the bells" from, "Hairspray". That was the song that sprung to mind at church the morning the electric bells were installed. When the electrical engineer, Dave McNeil, invited the team to go outside to hear the new electronic bells, one also thought of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and his famous lines, "the bells, the bells"!

It was a busy morning in church as the team were taking down all the Christmas decorations, as well as doing the weekly tidy up and clean. The team were all on task, but when Dave called us to listen to the bells, we all downed tools and went outside. We had the bongs, just like Big Ben's bell and the ding-dongs you have at a wedding. There are more bell sounds, which will be available for use at various services and weddings.

When you research bells, you find there are numerous bell sounds – bongs, chimes, ding-dongs, jingles, peals, pings, ting-a-lings, tinkles and a toll. Did you know that a "tocsin" is a warning signal made by the sound of a bell. This explains the name of one local burglar alarm company! Also, "tintinnabulation" is the name for the sound of bells.

Any of these sounds will be an improvement on our old bell which sounds as if it's out of tune. The new electronic bells will not only be used for all our services, but are available for weddings, where they will add an extra dimension to the wedding and should make the day seem even more special. The ringing of bells at a wedding is seen as a symbol of happiness and a celebration of the couple's new life together.

## Art Thou St Matthew's....



We recently received communication from a local lady who has just discovered she can draw and paint after learning in an art shop in Sunderland. Heather Gamble Smith sent us these pictures below - she had guidance on the one of the whole church at the workshop but did the one from the front of the church at home using a Christmas Card!

Heather wanted to share these pictures with us as she loves our church and wanted to show her newly discovered skill.

**Have you any drawings or paintings of our lovely church that you want us to share? If so, please email them to: [smn-magazine@outlook.com](mailto:smn-magazine@outlook.com)**



# *Carols by Candlelight*

St Matthew's Carols by Candlelight service was one of our special family services over the Christmas period. There is always something very wonderful about sitting in a church lit by candlelight, singing well known carols and surrounded by lots of people anticipating all the joys of Christmas. This year was no exception. After a warm and heartfelt welcome there was a real sense of celebration, as everyone feels they are heading for their holiday break and time with their families. It was quite a spiritual evening, full of music and companionship, which touched the soul.

There were all the usual carols: Once in Royal David's City, Oh Come All Ye Faithful, Good King Wenceslas, While Shepherds Watched and We Three kings, interspersed with the Readings taking us through the whole Christmas story, from the foretelling of the birth of Jesus right up to the visitation of the wise men. The singing was lively and cheerful, with everyone joining in and giving a hundred percent.

Tom gave a very short talk saying how busy Christmas is for everyone with lots of preparations and decorating and cooking and of course shopping. He explained that there is so much to do that on occasion we almost wish it was all over.

But, beyond the treadmill tasks to do and even beyond the glitter of Christmas there is something exciting, something wonderful and something very real. It is the celebration of a story that can change lives. The truth is, the message of Christmas is never over. The cry of the baby lying in the manger is the cry of God's love reaching out to us and saying, "You are loved and you are welcome". Jesus is there for us, to walk with us and support us every day.

The service concluded, after the blessing with everyone singing, "A Happy, Happy Christmas". All very joyful and happy! If you missed the service this year, try to join us in 2019, you will be most welcome.



## *New Year Prayer 2019*



Thank You Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend, give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty, help me fill it with good things each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings.

Amen



Our Christingle service this year took place on Christmas Eve. This year was extra special as it is 50 years since the first Christingle service in this country. It took place in Lincoln cathedral in 1968.

Christingles themselves actually go back much further, and 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. In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adopted Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating 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 4 seasons. Finally the lit candle symbolises Jesus the light of the world.



Our Christingle oranges were made by the children of our Crafty Church, along with some helpers, during the Sunday morning service. The service on Christmas Eve, lead by Malcolm included carols, a short film, an explanation of the Christingle, and prayers.

This year, at Newbottle St Matthew's we raised £101 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.







# **"ROCKING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE, IT'S A HAPPY HOLIDAY"**



On Tuesday evening, 18th December, lots of people met at St Matthew's for the annual, informal Carols around the Christmas tree. Malcolm and Tom lead the carol singing and told jokes, reminisced and reminded us of the wonder that is the real Christmas.

Everyone sang at the top of their voices and enjoyed the carols and the warm Christmas atmosphere. The Christmas tree stood resplendent with its shining lights and huge star and nearly everyone was wearing a Christmas jumper. Well, someone had to be difficult and wear a Christmas cardigan!! In the interval there were some lovely refreshments: sherry, wine, fruit juices, mince

pies, alternative apple & toffee pies, biscuits and even chocolates. Everyone availed themselves of the goodies then returned to their pews for the second half.

At the end of the service everyone received a little wooden cross, hand carved by Jim Roberts. Jim has given us crosses before and he came to join us at this service. It was lovely to be able to thank him in person.

A truly wonderful, uplifting and joyous occasion. The evening was totally free but thanks to the generosity of those there, £100 has been donated to the British Heart Foundation.



## **Christmas Lunch at Lunch Club**

On Thursday 6th December, ladies from the Sit and Be Fit group joined forces with the lunch club for a fabulous day. Everyone enjoyed a Christmas lunch, trifle, mince pies, chocolates and wine. Thank you to all who helped make this a wonderful day.

# Christmas Fayre 2018

Saturday 24th November 2018 was the date for our Christmas Fayre, with over 150 people through the doors of the church hall to see Santa and get some bargains for Christmas! Santa saw over 30 happy children in his grotto whilst many adults got into the festive spirit with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, ensuring a cheery atmosphere all round. I'm sure those who attended will have noticed our new gazebo setup in the hall this year – we purchased these in the summer and thought they would create a great Christmas market style atmosphere, which they did! A touch of holly decoration and some fairy lights on the gazebos transformed the fayre into a Christmas cornucopia of community cosyness, so we hope you agree it was well worth the effort!

Approximately £1500 was raised from this great social occasion, which was all made possible through lots of behind the scenes planning, preparation and advertising from so many people in the congregation and local community, so a big thank you goes out to all those who played their part. Of course, the event would be nothing without all those people who came along to spend their money and support us too, so many thanks to everyone who did. It just goes to show the strength of community spirit and generosity in our local area, which is amazing – God bless you all!

## Raffle

| Prize Order | Ticket Number | Winner Name                 | Prize              |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1st         | 0733          | Jackie Shields              | Hamper             |
| 2nd         | 1873          | Malcolm Adamson             | Vodka              |
| 3rd         | 0209          | Sharon Royal                | Whisky             |
| 4th         | 1358          | Sue Holmes                  | Brandy             |
| 5th         | 0010          | Gwen (Scissor Sisters)      | Amaretto           |
| 6th         | 0429          | M Hobson                    | Moet Champagne     |
| 7th         | 0834          | Vera Marshall               | Brandy             |
| 8th         | 1050          | Hazel Robson                | Port               |
| 9th         | 1072          | Sarah Wilkinson             | M & S Voucher      |
| 10th        | 1792          | Mary Lawson                 | Fruit Basket       |
| 11th        | 1981          | D Punton                    | Whisky             |
| 12th        | 0194          | June Cowell                 | Sherry             |
| 13th        | 1408          | Jackie (Changes Hair Salon) | Chocolate Hamper   |
| 14th        | 1969          | Jeremy Kirkup               | Wine               |
| 15th        | 1415          | Jean Williamson             | Biscuits           |
| 16th        | 0208          | Sharon Royal                | Quality Street     |
| 17th        | 1869          | Julie Simpson               | Sanctuary Gift Set |
| 18th        | 0265          | H English                   | Shortbread         |
| 19th        | 0781          | Ellie Wade                  | China Cup Set      |
| 20th        | 0874          | Susan Dick                  | Plant              |



## Christmas Stalls

| Stall Name              | Amount Made | Stall Name               | Amount Made     |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Toys                    | £118.30     | Jewellery & Gifts        | £72.90          |
| White Elephant          | £194.34     | Books                    | £63.40          |
| Sunday School           | £18.85      | Christmas Gift Stall     | £55.00          |
| Teas & Refreshments     | £57.30      | Cakes                    | £106.13         |
| Jams/Marmalades/Chutney | £34.00      | Soft Toy Tombola         | £53.00          |
| Entrance Fees           | £32.50      | Mulled Wine & Mince Pies | £16.00          |
| Gifts                   | £47.00      | Bags & Bottles Tombola   | £70.00          |
| Handmade Cards          | £80.00      | Grand Raffle             | £336.00         |
| Santa's Grotto          | £85.50      | Gift Tombola             | £62.00          |
|                         |             | <i>Total</i>             | <i>£1502.22</i> |







## WE WEREN'T EXPECTING THAT!

In the bleak midwinter frosty winds made moan. Well that was Saturday, but by Monday 17th December it was still cold, but bright and sunny; the sort of weather it must have been in Bethlehem on the first ever Christmas, when the star could be seen so clearly. So, a good day for all the children of Newbottle Primary Academy School to make their journey on foot (not a donkey in sight), to St Matthew's for their annual Christmas Service.

Once again it was a joy to welcome the children in their little warm coats and an array of hats, from pompom hats to ear flap hats to unicorn hats! Once settled, Tom welcomed the school and set them off with their first carol, "Because it's Christmas". It was sung beautifully by the whole school, then Year 2 sang, "Life has changed", reminding us all how the birth of Jesus changed our lives forever.

After a reading by one of year 6, Year 1 sang one of Tom's favourite carols, "Little Donkey". This was quickly followed by another reading and Reception singing, "Busy in Bethlehem".



Year 3 performed, "Little Drummer boy" and Tom told them it was a better rendition than Bing Crosby and David Bowie! After another reading, all of which were done brilliantly by year 6, several carols followed: Year 6 with, "The Coventry Carol", Year 4 with, "The First Noel" and Year 5 with, "Oh Christmas Tree".

They all watched the short film of the Nativity called "An unexpected Christmas". The story unfolds in Heaven, with God deciding it was time to do something as he wasn't happy with what was happening on Earth. An angel steps up and offers to send an army. God says no, he was thinking of sending one person. The angels were amazed at only one person and say, "We weren't expecting that!" They then decide it will have to be someone really strong, but God says no, he was thinking of sending a new born baby. Cue the angels reply, "We weren't expecting that!" And so it continues, but such a strong reminder to us all of how God sent a baby, His son to be born to ordinary people in the most humble of places to save us all. Quite a story!!

Tom gave a little talk to the children and showed them his sack of pressies, opening one at a time. Each one looked like something, but when opened it was something completely different. One looked like a huge lolly, but was a table tennis bat. One looked like a teddy bear but was a toy monkey. There was even an Xbox. All of them were completely unexpected!

After saying the Lord's Prayer together, the whole school sang, "Merry Christmas Everyone", almost raising the roof and Tom wished them all a very merry Christmas.

As always, it was a delight to share the children's love of Christmas.





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## **IT'S BACK AGAIN!**

*Our popular music and beer festival returns for a fifth consecutive year, from Thursday 28th - Sunday 30th June.*

*More details in the next edition.*

## Notices & Information

### FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Wilson Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 10.00am on the following

January 4th 11th 18th 25th February 1st 8th 15th 22nd March 1st

### SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers

Anniversary and Christmas memories of our Mam Dad Gran and Granda Jack and Peg Smith Loved and always remembered Carole Brian and Family

Memories of a Dear Dad and Grandad

Anonymous donation for flowers

Donation for Christmas flowers Special Christmas thoughts of Alan loving and much loved Husband and Dad and Mam and Dad from Margaret Craig Scott Deborah and Carly

In loving memory of Elsie Raine from friends Nancy and Joy

In loving memory of Elsie and Lovat Raine from Susan and George Elizabeth and Robert and Boys William and Matthew Floral Tribute from the Funeral of Elsie Raine

Donation for Flowers for Christmas in Memory of Bill Towers from Enid and Family

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

Many thanks to all who donated to our Christmas Flowers the Church looked beautiful with the Poles Christmas Tree and Flower Arrangements.

### FABRIC FUND

Loving memory of dear Dad, also birthday memories of dear Mam. From Kate, Maud and families

Christmas memories of all loved ones. From Kate, Maud and families

Donation from Sylvia Winspear

Treasured memories of a much loved Mam, Catherine Wakefield. From Anne

Legacy from Christine Kirkup's estate

Donation from Margaret Freeman

Donation from Susan Pickering

In memory of a dear friend, Mary Turner.

From Margaret & Brian Gould

Christmas memories of all loved ones. From Catherine Morton

Anonymous Donation

## Sunnside Methodist Church

### Donations to flower fund

Christmas memories of a dear sister, Elsie and her husband Arthur. Lovingly remembered by Peggy, Jack and family.

Remembering with love, Margaret, a dear sister and auntie, on her anniversary, January 4th. From Jean, Ron and family

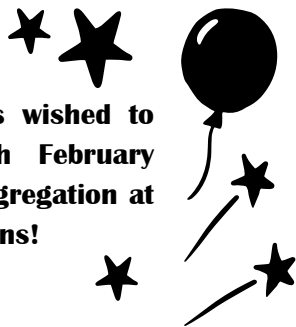
### Church Anniversary Service

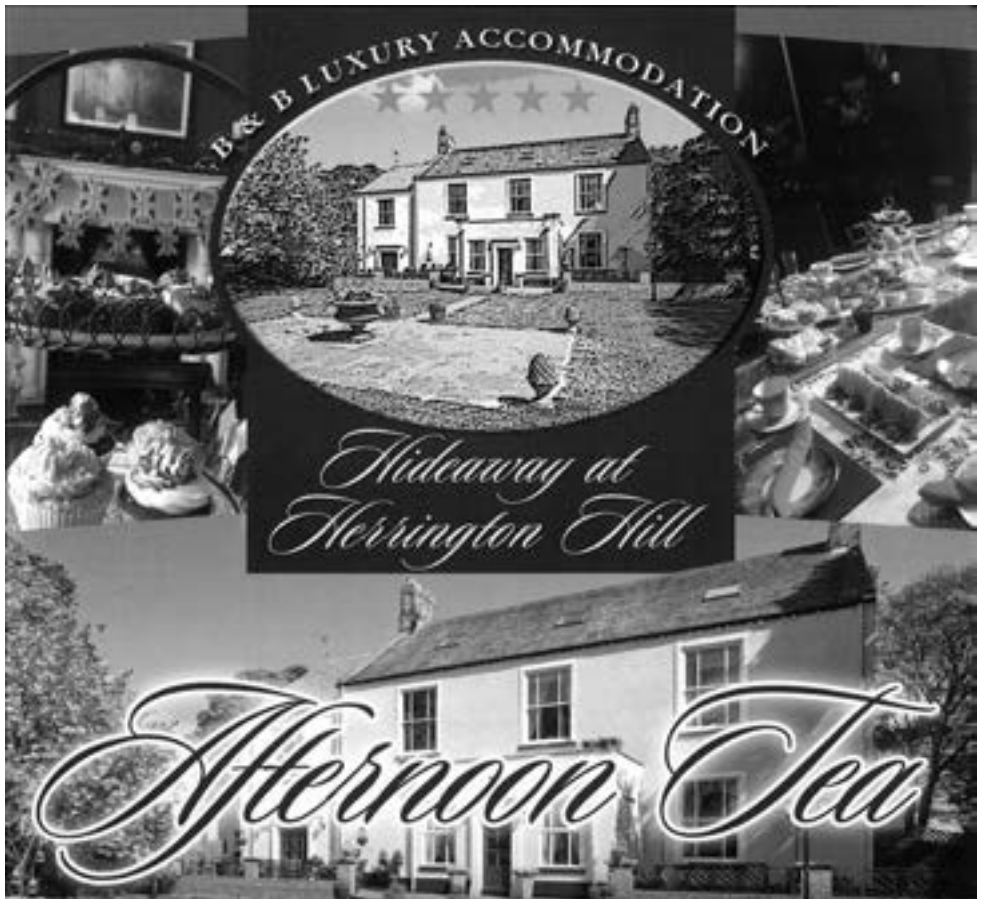
Our church anniversary service was held on Sunday 2nd December, celebrating 119 years of worship at Sunnside. Mr Arnold Hood conducted the service and afterwards we enjoyed fellowship with a tea and a celebration cake.

Thank you to all who generously donated to church funds.



**A happy 18th birthday is wished to Joshua Gibson for 18th February 2019, from all of the congregation at St. Matthews. Congratulations!**





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Rainbows, Brownies or Guides  
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# GREENVIEW Cottage

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## Lunch

## Club

New Members  
Welcome

**Thursdays 12.30 - 1.30pm  
at the Church Hall**

**Contact: Malcolm 0191 5844995**



Whether you're a complete beginner or if you want to brush up on your current computer skills, this free weekly course allows you to get the most out of using a computer and being online!

Every Monday from the 7th January - 1.30pm in the Jubilee Room at the back of the Church Hall. Bring along your laptop or IPad if you have one and learn how to do a family tree, photo restoration, create digital memories or even about Universal Credit! Sessions run by John Walls of Hetton Hub.

# TIME TO LEVEL UP!

EVERY MONDAY FROM 1.30 PM



## St. Matthew's Church & Community Hall

...part of the local community spirit

### Weekly Timetable

| DAY       | TIME             | CLUB                             |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday    | 6.30pm-8.30pm    | Judo (Brian)                     |
| Monday    | 1.00pm-2.30pm    | Computer Skills (John)           |
| Tuesday   | 9.30am-12.00noon | Arts & Crafts Club (Kathleen)    |
| Tuesday   |                  | Rainbows/Brownies/Guides (Tracy) |
| Wednesday | 1.30pm-2.30pm    | Time For Rhyme                   |
| Wednesday | 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                       |
| Friday    | 6.00pm-7.30pm    | Karate (Ed)                      |
| Sunday    | 5.30pm-6.30pm    | Karate (Ed)                      |

Would you like to book the Church Hall for a party or club meeting?  
Contact Steven or Julie by Email: [stmatthewshallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewshallbookings@gmail.com)

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

