

St. Matthew's Church Newbottle

January - February 2018

**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

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

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From Our Registers:

Baptisms:	3rd December	Penelope Louise Boiston.
Confirmations:	5th November	Blanche Hall. Claudia Calvert.
Funeral:	25th November	William Render.
	29th November	Gladys Maud Singleton.
Burial of Ashes	9th December	Edward Wilkinson Elizabeth Brown Wilkinson.

Dates for the Diary

Shrove Tuesday - Tuesday 13th February
Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 14th February
Mothering Sunday - Sunday 11th March
Maundy Thursday - Thursday 29th March
Good Friday - Friday 30th March
Easter Sunday - Sunday 1st April



We started our Christmas celebrations this year, as we do every year, with our Christmas Fair on the last Saturday afternoon in November. During the first week in December our church Christmas tree arrived, which was magnificently decorated and admired by everyone. We had a celebration tea in church and a fantastic lunch in the church hall. We had very well attended carol services, a Christingle service and of course our Christmas night and Christmas day services in a beautifully decorated church. A lot of folk have told me things have gone well really well, which is nice.

The visit of Newbottle Primary Academy during the week leading up to the Christmas holidays, with over 470 children and staff in St. Matthew's, was a particular high point. During the school visit, on behalf of everyone at St. Matthew's, I thanked all the pupils who took part in the competition to design our 2017 parish Christmas card and asked the headmaster Mr. Stephenson to present the winner, Patrick from year three, with a children's bible and prayer book, and a Thornton's chocolate figure. Hopefully most of you who are reading this letter will have received one of our church cards which were delivered around the parish.

As the vicar of Newbottle I'm the one who receives all the compliments when things go so well, which is great. However I must stress that the reason everything went so well is because there are a lot of people who work really hard in the background, without complaining, to make things so successful. The time, the effort and the planning that they put into church activities, at a very busy time of year for all of us, is an expression of their faith. It's a priceless gift to God.

We are at the beginning of a New Year, a year when there may well be some big changes in the Church of England in Houghton deanery. We must be prepared to put as much time, energy and planning into our witness to the local community as we possibly can. Things won't just happen we have to help them to happen.

The welcome we offer at Christmas is offered all the year round. We always prayerfully plan our witness and it's not just for the coming year or even the next 10 years. We want our grandchildren and beyond to know the love of God in their lives just as we did when we were children.

Happy New Year to you all.

Eddy Wilkinson.

THANK YOU

As New Year honours are bestowed by the Queen, we too would like to show 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 Christingle

We truly appreciate all of their help!



Christenings at St. Matthew's



Penelope Grace Boiston - 3rd December

Newbottle Primary Academy have a Chocolaty Christmas

One of Newbottle's Christmas highlights is always the visit from Newbottle Primary Academy School. It is always a treat to see the little faces with their bobble hats, the Y6 children taking the hands of the youngest children and to hear children's cheerful voices singing carols. This year was no exception. Their angelic voices gave lovely renditions of "Ra Ta Ta Tat", "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem", "Little Donkey" and "Do you hear what I hear?", to name but a few. A new number this year was, "Il est ne le Devin Enfant", that's "He is born, the Divine infant", to you and me. Very clever of them to sing in French! Tres bien mes enfants!

Aeroplanes, or Double Deckers or Taxis in those days! The shepherds had been up on the hillside looking at the Milky Way.

Also in the service was a presentation to Patrick D from Y4. Patrick had designed the winning card which St. Matthew's used for their Parish Christmas card this year. There were some superb designs, but Patrick pipped them all at the post to win. Mr Stephenson (chief executive officer of the Academy) presented Patrick with his prizes – some were chocolaty! Well done Patrick.

The service finished off with prayers and a loud and exuberant singing of "Hosanna Rock". Then the children filed out quietly and headed back to school.

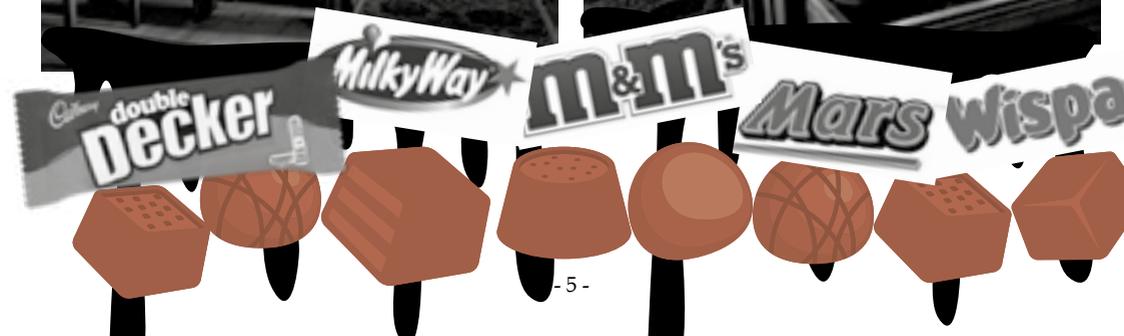
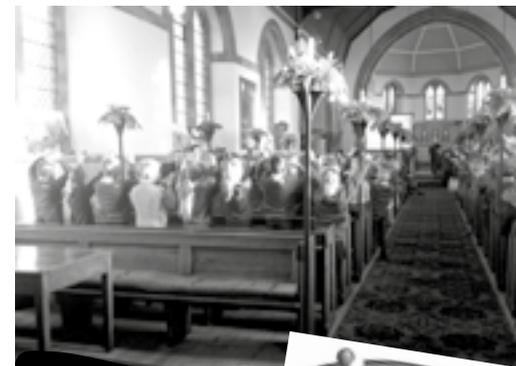
The older children gave readings of the birth of Jesus and the children were told the story of a very chocolaty Nativity. Mmmmmmm..... sounds delicious! This is a recount of the whole Christmas story, told with chocolate bars!! The children had to see how many chocolate treats they heard in the story. A few examples are :- Mary heard a Wispa from an angel. They travelled on a donkey, because there weren't any

We hope that as the children enjoyed their festivities over the Christmas period, that they spared a moment to think about the real meaning of Christmas, that little baby laid in the manger – the first Christmas gift to us all our Miniature Hero – a great cause for Celebrations.

Confirmation Congratulations



Congratulations to Blanche Hall and her granddaughter Claudia Calvert of our congregation, who were confirmed on 15th November at St.Oswald's Church, Shiney Row, by the Bishop of Jarrow. Blanche and Claudia have since taken communion with us on a Sunday morning of the 15th November





PLEASE JOIN US...

JOIN IN

Do you fancy yourself as a bit of an Egghead? Do you think you could beat the Chaser? Come and put your skills to the test with 1st Herrington Scout Group!

MORE INFO

We are hosting a curry and quiz night with quizzes for both children and adults!

-----LET'S GET QUIZZICAL-----

Roll up, roll up! We are kicking off the year with our first minibus fundraiser this February and hope you can make it! We have already started writing a great quiz with something for everyone and our curry recipes are tried and tested. It really should be a great night for the whole family and we all really hope you can make it. Let's have an amazing night and raise some money for our new bus!

WHAT'S ON

Quiz, Curry, Drinks, Games, Tombola and loads of family fun!

When?

Saturday 3rd February 2018

Where?

Newbottle Church Hall

What time?

6:30pm onwards for a 7pm Start until 10pm

Tickets must be bought in advance (£6 each) which includes curry, a drink and quiz entry, and contact details: stevengibson38@gmail.com or 07507161366



Time for Rhyme Newbottle

'Time for Rhyme' sessions promote children's development through activities including dancing, singing and treasure baskets.

The FREE sessions for ages 0-18 months, offer the chance for interaction with other children; developing and building imagination, decision making and social skills and giving parents and carers the opportunity to be involved in their child's development in a social setting.

This well-known activity session is piloting for 12 weeks at our ever popular Church & Community Centre

Wednesday 10th January, 1.30pm-2.30pm, through to 28th March.

For enquiries, please call: 0191 3823056

together for children
SUNDERLAND



THE POST OFFICE RETURNS TO NEWBOTTLE!

Newbottle Stores, run by Will Render, is pleased to announce that he will soon be bringing the Post Office back to Newbottle! This will be incorporated into his existing shop at 49 Front Street (in between our Church and Church Hall), which will be a fantastic asset to the village. After the closure of the Post Office in South Street many years ago, people in our community have had to go to the main Post Office in Houghton town centre, which is not always convenient. However, the news that our village can once again have this vital service is fantastic, especially given that more and more new houses are being built locally. We salute you Will for bringing this welcome addition back to our community!



New Year Prayer 2018

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

Help me to 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



PACT NO MORE COMMUNITY IM-PACT...

Total Policing

It has been announced by the police that unfortunately there will no PACT meetings for 2018.

PACT is short for Police and Communities Together - it was a forum whereby all members of the community were invited to attend a meeting at our Church Hall with the police and local councillors (usually every quarter), to identify and discuss any local crime and anti-social behaviour problems, agree local action to tackle these problems and individual neighbourhood priorities would be agreed.

We are very sad that this forum has been withdrawn, but thank all who have ever attended, in the interests of our community.

Mothers' UNION Christian care for families

The bi-annual Deanery meeting of the Mothers' Union was held on Tuesday 21 November, and our Contact Member attended. It was good to learn at first hand exactly what is taking place in the Deanery and in the Diocese, and to listen to Committee members delivering their individual reports.

Our branch members will soon join with members of the Women's Fellowship for a beginning of the year lunch or afternoon tea.

Women's Fellowship

One or two situations have occurred which have prevented us from having meetings in November and December. We all look forward to beginning the new year with a lunch or afternoon tea.

Carols by Candlelight – Sunday 17th December

Yet another amazingly atmospheric service this year, with superb attendance – it is by far our most popular Christmas service as the pews were full! Our large screen at the front of the church helped everyone to sing out the carols we all know and love, which also really helped with the low light. However, it is singing by the light of the candle which gives this service its uniqueness and tone..... hearing Nicola O'Connor beautifully singing her solos this way made you feel the Christmas spirit, almost transporting you back to Bethlehem to a darkened stable. The power of a full church raising the roof with their singing of Christmas Carols was immensely uplifting – an unforgettable experience!



Seventy go mad in Newbottle

Seventy people descended on St Matthew's on Tuesday 20th December and made it a night to remember. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas", is Bing Crosby's old song, but this is exactly how it was. There was an amazing atmosphere; very uplifting and lots of bonhomie. It was casual and welcoming party-like. Yes, Christmas was here!

Lots of people gathered, some even said they nearly didn't come – they were very busy or tired from work or shopping or other Christmas preparations. However once there, the half done preparations and shopping were forgotten and instead there was much merriment, warmth and joy. Christmas in all its wonder could be seen. It felt like a real Christmas party!

There were many rousing carols sung with gusto and feeling and in the rather long interval (lot of imbibing and chattering), there was sherry, wine and even some Prosecco! Mince pies were in abundance. Old friends and new were welcomed. It was good to catch up with old acquaintances.

Lots of people turned up in their Christmas jumpers and one in their new Christmas cardigan! There were knitted robins, bells, snowflakes and lashings of reindeer everywhere. Eddy, our vicar, promised all jumper wearers a mince pie and said 2 mince pies for the wearer of the Christmas cardigan. Some thought that was favouritism! Make a note of it for next year – wear a cardigan!

Eddy the vicar told us a selection of his Christmas memories – the welly rash he used to get at this time of year, simple presents he'd delighted in, and the first time he sang "Away in a manger". He reminded us that Christmas brings with it many, many happy memories, going right back to childhood, of our families and friends and of our own children when they were small. It is often these memories that bring us immense joy at Christmas. These are the special Christmas gifts, more so than the expensive ones we receive. Eddy could remember a pair of socks he received last Christmas, rather than other more expensive presents. (I thought that socks were the only pressie men got!)

There was no collection plate passed around at this service, as it was a very informal evening; however, the kindness of attendees shone through, as £70 was left in donations! This was given to the youth homelessness charity "Centrepoin" in Sunderland, which was very gratefully received at such a difficult time of the year for some.

And, at the centre of all the merriment and fun and giving and receiving is the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus and we sang it loud and clearly throughout the night. It is he who still today has much to offer us in our everyday lives.

Christmas Fayre 2017

Saturday 25th November 2017 was the date for the Christmas Fayre, with over 150 people through the doors of the church hall to see Santa and get some bargains for Christmas! Santa saw 20-30 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.

Approximately £1450 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!



Christmas Stalls

White Elephant	£246.70
Grand Raffle	£284.00
Door Entrance	£30.00
Christmas Stall	£76.00
Tombola	£64.00
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies	£26.50
Cake Stall	£101.97
Jams & Preserves	£72.30
Jewellery and Knitted Goods	£70.69
Santa	£51.50

Teas and Refreshments	£56.46
Handmade Cards	£108.00
Books	£44.80
Toys	£28.70
Cuddly Toy Tombola	£33.80
Bottles in Bags Tombola	£66.90
Mr & Mrs Claus (guess the age)	£20.00
Christmas Gifts	£30.00
Car Boot (sale of left over Bric-a-Brac)	£40.00
Total:	£1452.32

Raffle

PRIZE	TICKET No	PRIZE	PRIZE WINNER
1st Prize	1211	Hamper	Laura
2nd Prize	1710	Bottle of Vodka	Tom Dick
3rd Prize	0417	Bottle of Whisky	Vera Marshall
4th Prize	1811	Bottle of Gordons Gin	Margaret Punton
5th Prize	0299	M&S Voucher	Jacqui Harriman
6th Prize	1601	Bottle of Famous Grouse	Karen Bell
7th Prize	0157	Bottle of Amaretto	G Williamson
8th Prize	0395	Fruit Basket	Belle Wake
9th Prize	0537	Chocolate Basket	Ivy Berriman
10th Prize	1457	Bottle of Red Wine	Noreen Shaw
11th Prize	0803	Bottle of Prosecco	Wendy Connolly
12th Prize	0486	Gift Set	June Ramsey
13th Prize	0503	Tub of Roses Chocolates	Lee Beresford
14th Prize	0787	Shortbread Biscuits	Susan Chaffe
15th Prize	0620	Biscuits	Ben
16th Prize	0562	Gift Set	Kola
17th Prize	0254	Wine Set	Margaret Simpson
18th Prize	0627	Bottle of White Wine	S Royal
19th Prize	0928	Bottle of Rose Wine	M Jordison

Philadelphia Cricket & Community Club

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Tel: 0791 354 5314
Email: Hrobbo1@Yahoo.co.uk

Having A Party or celebration

* We have an excellent function room which is widely used. If you have a function of any description coming up, why not book with us.

Please contact the club on 0191 5841348 or manager Paul at: paulgolden66@gmail.com

Festive Tea



An experience we hope to repeat in the future.

The ladies of the Wednesday morning and Sunday evening groups served afternoon tea in the warm and cosy Lady Chapel at St Matthew's on Saturday 9th December. About 30 people came to partake of the goodies. The tables were set for Christmas and were beautifully decorated. There was a tableful of tea-time treats, light fluffy scones, yummy

sandwiches and plenty of indulgent cakes and pastries. All were served on china with plenty of refills of tea and coffee. It was a lovely atmosphere with lots of conversation. It made for an unforgettable afternoon. Thank you to all for this treat.

Christingle at St. Matthew's

Sunday 10th December

The Children's Society "Christingle" service always marks the start of our Christmas services at St. Matthew's. The Christingle celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle – each piece of the Christingle holds special symbolism to help children understand the importance of Jesus and the Gospel, and its relevance at Christmas time.

To help the children understand further, a video was played on our large screen called "An Unexpected Christmas", which was the Christmas story told by the children of St. Paul's Church in Auckland, New Zealand. The children in it played all the usual roles, with one little boy who kept saying "Brilliant. They won't be expecting that!" each time God said what he was going to do. He illustrated a key point about Jesus' arrival on earth and the Jewish



expectations of the Messiah; he really wasn't the warrior king they were hoping for – he was the prince of peace!

Thanks, as always, go to Will Render of Newbottle Food Stores, for donating the oranges, which are the focal point of this family service, and a big thank you to all who contributed to the collection. £108 was raised for the Children's Society, which they will be thrilled about!

Photos of yesteryear

Newbottle new-builds back in the 50s...showing the demand for the area then, as much as today!



Engines 5 & 29 NCB depot at Philadelphia

Taken February 1969 by Jonathan Marsh. Both locos, which were the last two "Lambton Tanks" in use have been preserved and run on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. One was built by Robert Stephenson and the other by Kitsons (Leeds). For dvd footage of these trains; copies can be obtained via: j.marsh197@btinternet.com

Sunniside Methodist Church

Donations to Flower Fund:

In memory of a dear Mam & Dad, Bill & Peggy Reed at Christmas; from Kathleen and family.

Remembering with love Margaret, a dear sister and auntie on her anniversary, January 4th 2017, from Jean, Ron & family.

Donations to Church Fund:

In loving memory of a dear wife and mother Elsie who died Christmas day 2008. Also a loving sister and aunt Ellen Truesdell who died on September 30th 2017 in the USA. Always in our prayers and thinking of them every day, from Tim & David Graves.

Church Anniversary Service

Our church anniversary service was held on Sunday 3rd December, celebrating one hundred and eighteen years of worship at Sunniside. John Roughly led the service and afterwards we enjoyed fellowship with tea and a celebration cake.

Thank you to all who generously donated to church funds.

Notices & Information

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Wilson Mrs Martin

Flower preparation at 10.00am on the following

January 6th 13th 20th 27th

February 3rd 10th 17th 24th

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers for Christmas

Donation in Memory of Family and Friends at Christmas

Donation in Memory of Mam and Dad from Dorothy Beaumont

Christmas Memories of Ronnie Berriman from Ivy and Family

Donation from Margaret Freeman for Christmas Flowers

Christmas memories of Bill Towers from Enid and Family

Donation for Christmas Flowers special thought of Alan loving and much loved Husband and Dad also Mam and Dad from Margaret, Craig, Scott, Deborah and Carly

Funds from the Collecting Box in Church

Many thanks to all who have given donations and their time over Christmas to make our Church look so welcoming and beautiful and a true reflection of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

CHURCH HALL RESTORATION

FABRIC FUND

Donation from Patricia Slade (nee Brown)

Anonymous Donation

Donation from Mary Bowman Christmas memories of all loved ones. Also remembering Fred Hall, a good friend to many. Catherine Morton

Anonymous Donation

Donation in memory of Elizabeth Ann Hamilton "Nancy".

In memory of Eddy & Betty Wilkinson

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



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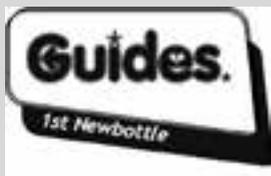
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Girlguiding Newbottle

if you are interested in joining
Rainbows, Brownies or Guides
contact Tracey

07769 678271



Thursdays 12.30 - 1.30pm
Contact: Malcolm 0191 5844995

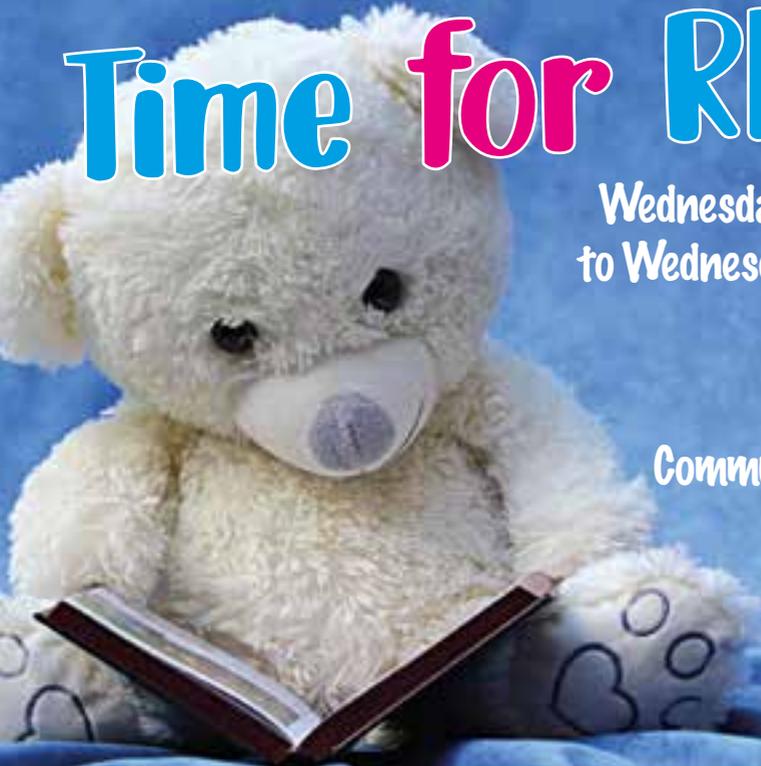
St. Matthew's Church & Community Hall

...part of the local community spirit

Weekly Timetable

Monday	6.30pm-8.30pm	Judo (Brian)
Tuesday	9.30am-12.00noon	Arts & Crafts Club (Kathleen)
Wednesday	6.00pm-7.30pm	Karate (Ed)
Wednesday	1.30pm-2.30pm	Time For Rhyme
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)

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



Time for Rhyme

Wednesday 10th January
to Wednesday 28th March,

1.30pm-2.30pm

St. Matthew's
Community Church Hall

together for
children
SUNDERLAND

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

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

