

St. Matthew's Church Newbottle

March - April 2018

***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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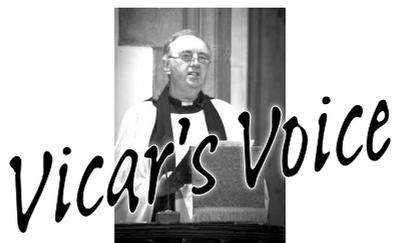
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From Our Registers:

Baptisms: 4th February
18th February
25th February

Funeral: 11th January
30th January
1st February

Jacob Bobby David Bestford.
Mila Ann Coyne.
Joshua Arthur Petre.
Lesley Storey.
Christine Elizabeth Kirkup.
Margaret Alice Isobel Bradley.



In my vicar's letter in the November & December 2017 issue of this parish magazine, I mentioned how when I first came to Newbottle in 1992 there were 10 vicars in Houghton deanery working in 12 churches.

By 2016 there were 5.4 Vicars employed by the Diocese of Durham to work in the 10 churches in Houghton deanery:

Burnmoor - one vicar, employed half time (Sunday + 2 days during the rest of the week).

Chilton Moor – one vicar, employed half time as above.

East & West Rainton – one vicar employed 0.4 time (Sunday + approx 1.5 days)

Lyons – one vicar employed full time.

Herrington, Penshaw & Shiney Row – one vicar employed full time.

Houghton-le-Spring – one vicar employed full time.

Newbottle – one vicar employed full time.

At the Houghton-le-Spring deanery synod meeting, held at St. Matthew's church on Thursday 22nd February 2018, synod members voted to support a proposal drawn up by the Diocese of Durham, to come into effect by 2020 as the retirement and movement of existing clergy in post allows, which will mean that there will be 4 fulltime vicars to cover the following parish groupings:

One vicar will minister to Burnmoor, Herrington, Penshaw and Shiney Row.

One vicar will minister to Chilton Moor, Great Lumley, East Rainton and West Rainton.

Two vicars will minister to Houghton, Lyons and Newbottle.

The planned above reduction in clergy numbers in Houghton deanery, from 5.4 posts to 4 posts, plus the addition of Great Lumley into Houghton deanery, have been made necessary because of the financial pressures which the Diocese of Durham is facing. Great Lumley will move from Chester-le-Street deanery to Houghton deanery to help Chester-le-Street deanery reduce their clergy numbers. It is also proposed that in order to give mutual help and support, Chester-le-Street and Houghton deaneries merge to form a new deanery – these discussions are ongoing.

If the agreed plan for the existing deanery of Houghton and the proposed merger of Houghton and Chester-le-Street deaneries is to succeed, then all those involved must prayerfully work together to build the Kingdom of God. To assist in this, the existing parishes of Houghton deanery have formally agreed to form a "Group" ministry. In a group ministry all congregations and ministers in the "Group" agree to work across parish boundaries and support each other.

Inevitably things can't continue as they have in the past, there will be changes. Crucially we must make sure that the work of the Church does not suffer as a consequence of those changes. We must prayerfully seek God's guidance and help as we share the Church's message with the people of the communities in which we live.

The Easter message of St. Matthew's church to the people of Newbottle is proclaimed for all to see on the banner fastened to our churchyard railings - "Jesus offers New Life and New Hope" to everyone.

Eddy Wilkinson.



Christenings at St. Matthew's



Jacob Bobby David Bestford
4th February



Mila Ann Coyne
18th February



Joshua Arthur Petre
25th February



*Christine
Elizabeth Kirkup
(1945 - 2018)*

It was with sadness that we heard the news of Christine's death. She was a well loved member of the congregation, and has always been at the heart of church life in this parish. Christine had a strong Christian faith, which underpinned all the activities which she was involved with. And there were many!

Born on 12th January 1945, in Chilwell, Nottingham, Christine was the youngest of 3 sisters. Her father died when she was only 12 years old. After she left school Christine went to London and became involved in children's charity work with Dr. Barnardo's. She worked really hard in the premature babies unit, often being left to look after a whole ward singlehanded. She always had a keen interest in the care of young children and had a soft spot for the work of the Children's Society.

Christine was introduced to Brian by her sister Margaret's husband, John. Brian's first wife, Joyce had died earlier, leaving him with Carolyn and Nigel to care for. Christine moved north and they married in St Matthew's in July 1970. She moved into Scarhead House, which has been the family home for children, Carolyn, Nigel, Jeremy, Harvey and Simon. Christine was a good and loving home-maker and worked very hard to make everyone happy.

Christine soon became fully immersed in the work of St Matthew's. She was an active member of the PCC (church council) and was on the Church Hall management committee. She helped with the flower arranging in church and enjoyed attending flower arranging classes. After the children were grown up she became a member of the church choir.



Christine was a Mothers' Union enrolling member for many years and was involved with the Mothers' Union at both Deanery and Diocesan level. She ran the GFS in our church and community hall on Tuesday evenings for many, many years. The girls loved these evenings! She also ran the Church Hall toddler group for many years and was closely involved with the Young Wives group. Christine helped to deliver the Parish magazines (often with a little dog in tow). She frequently visited the sick at home and in the local nursing homes, delivering flowers and Get Well cards, particularly to members of the Mothers' Union. In later years she attended the Church Lunch Club. As well as church based groups, Christine took a leading role in the WI, which used to meet in the church hall and she continued to be a member of the East Herrington branch.

Brian died in 2003 and this was of deep sadness to Christine. She busied herself with younger members of the family and threw herself into other good works, all this while suffering from MS.

Christine loved wildlife and nature and was a keen gardener, producing excellent fruits and vegetables. Quite a few of the congregation benefitted from her harvests. She had many dogs and cats, not to mention her donkeys, Hamish, Nettle-Pot and Brae!

Christine will be greatly missed and always greatly loved.



*Margaret Alice
Isobel Bradley
1920 - 2018*



It was with sadness that we heard the news of the death of Alice (known as Margaret to her family and carers). She was an important and well loved member of our congregation for many years, from after her marriage to Caleb Bradley and move to Philadelphia, until she became housebound. She had a strong faith, without being overly pious and attended St Matthew's regularly, as did all of her children in their childhood years. She was involved in polishing the brasses in church and with her friend, Nellie Wilson, she did the flower arranging. She was a member of the Women's Institute and the Mothers' Union and when church fetes were held, her homemade strawberry, rhubarb and ginger jam was legendary in the neighbourhood. It wasn't unknown for 20 jars of her jam to sell out quicker than an iPhone! Alice made many friends through church and spent many happy hours at the church and with members of the Mothers' Union. In her later years she was a member of the church choir and loved singing hymns. As she became more housebound, she would sing along to "Songs of Praise" on TV.

Born on 27th May 1920, Alice lived her early years between two World Wars and her family feel this gave her a resilience and determination that would serve her well, later in life. She lived with her family in Fence Houses and loved riding her bike. War broke out when she was only 19 years old and her contribution to the war effort meant her moving to Baggington, Coventry, where she worked on the electrical systems of Lancaster bombers.

After the war Alice returned to Fence Houses and worked for a short time at Newbottle Co-op. It was here that she met Caleb. They married in 1946 and soon moved to Tesla Street in Philadelphia. Like many women of

the time, Alice gave up work after marriage. To Alice family was the priority and she spent her life giving selflessly to others. She had 4 children, Malcolm, Joan, Douglas and Colin. They were not a well off family, but Alice always managed to put food on the table. She was a dab hand at sewing, tailoring and teddy bear making.

Tragedy struck in 1969 when Caleb died suddenly, leaving Alice to care for her 4 children. Margaret, with the help of Mike Bates (vicar of St Matthew's), got a job at Newbottle school as a dinner lady. Later she moved to Paddock Stile Primary school and eventually became a teacher's aide, until she retired at 60.

Alice was forever grateful for what she had and never worried about what she didn't have. She rarely asked for anything herself, but spent her time giving to others. For several years she worked for the Marie Curie Charity shop and for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Yes, we were sad at her death, but happy to celebrate her life amongst us. It was our privilege to know her and we will not forget her.



WE ALL HAVE OUR CROSSES TO BEAR.



It was a bitterly cold, wet Tuesday morning when Malcolm, Jason, Dave and Tom had planned to make and display three Easter crosses. Tom rather hoped they'd choose another, drier day to do it, but Malcolm was determined to get it done! As they say, "We all have our crosses to bear"!

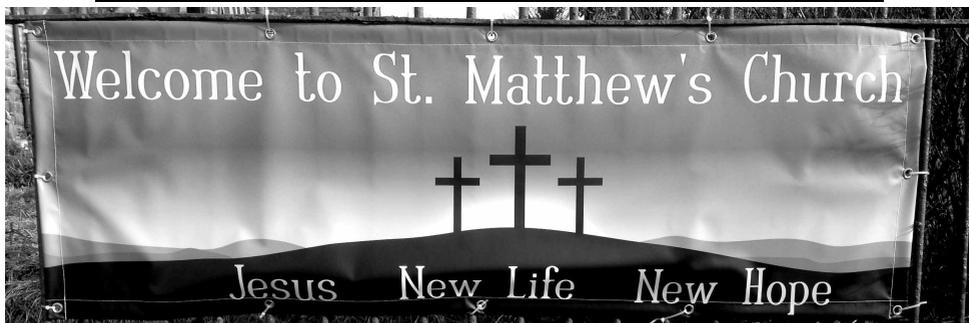
The idea was to position the three crosses on a raised mound of earth in the churchyard and have them displayed there during the Lent and Easter period. However, due to the driving rain, sleet and cold, an executive decision was taken to ditch the mound and erect the crosses in at ground level. It was a decision we were pleased we'd taken when we saw the finished article. The three crosses are made out of our Christmas trees, which we had kept especially for this purpose, as it signifies the close relationship between Christmas and Easter; there would not be Christmas, or a manger, without the cross. Christ was born to live among us on earth; He died for our sins on the cross and was raised from the dead. Want to learn more about this, then why not come and join us at St Matthews? The weekly services can be found in this magazine, or on our church website. Anyway, once the crosses were constructed the four musketeers went outside to brave the cold, rain and the sleet again. Dave set about digging the holes with a spit (long narrow spade), which was very hard work as the ground was solid. The three crosses were then raised into



their respective holes and firmly secured. It was cold our fingers were frozen, but we were happy with the result, and we hope you all are. We also hope that the three simple crosses representing the scene of the crucifixion will encourage people who pass them, to think about what they mean, and what they mean for our lives today. If you haven't seen them yet, please do come up to the churchyard and have a look yourself, but if you can't make it up yourself keep your eyes open for your Easter card. The photograph with the 3 crosses is a reminder of God's love for all of us.



Welcome and Easter Banner



If you do pass St. Matthew's church you will see a new colourful addition to the churchyard railings. Charles, a member of our congregation produced the simple design with the powerful message. "Welcome to St Matthew's Church", and "Jesus, New Life, New Hope". And you are all very welcome to come and join us and see what we and Jesus have to offer. The banner was manufactured by Robin Watson Sign and Design of Hexham and was put up on the

same day as the crosses. The banner can be seen next to the church gate, under the notice board, but really, you cannot miss it. Please look out for a second banner at the junction of High Lane/Sunderland Road. This banner will be put up on Palm Sunday ready for Easter. Hopefully by then the weather will not be too cold and the installation a lot more comfortable for those putting it up.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

*Women's
Fellowship*



Members of the Mothers' Union and Women's Fellowship joined together for high tea on Monday 23 February. The afternoon together was most enjoyable. We had a very nice tea and it was good to catch up with one another's news. We hope as the finer weather comes along soon to have our meetings at church and to make arrangements for some interesting speakers to be with us.

WHO

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?



Having watched and enjoyed this TV programme for many years, it was with the greatest of interest that I listened to Carole Rust. She came into St Matthew's one Tuesday morning to take photographs of the memorial window at the back of church (the West Window). Carole began to relate the story behind her visit, which had been inspired by her research of her family history. Carole started with this research in 2004 and has since established that 3 of her great uncles, William Henry, Frederick Augustine and Albert Edward Atkinson were stained glass artists and two of them are responsible for the beautiful stained glass window at the back of church.

The three men, along with another brother and a sister, came originally from Ripon, where their father (William Henry Atkinson), was a grocer and tea merchant. When their father died the family moved to Elswick, Newcastle to live with their mother's sister and her husband Henry Mark Barnett. It just so happened that their uncle was a stained glass artist and subsequently William Henry Atkinson worked as a draughtsman and then as a stained glass artist at Back Oxford Street, Newcastle. Carole thinks that Frederick and Albert were apprenticed to their uncle and then set up on their own in 1876 at New Bridge Street Newcastle. On the death of their brother, Frederick and Albert took on his works.

William died first, then after Frederick died (1927), Albert continued until the mid 1930s when they were merged with Millican together with Baguley, another Newcastle stained glass firm. They become Millican, Baguley and Atkinson and this remained the name of the firm until the 1950s. Albert died in 1939.

Their stained glass windows are in churches across the North East, but are as far afield as Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

It was amazing and exciting to discover more of the background history to one of our windows. This beautiful window, which looks stunning when viewed in the sunset, is a World War 1 memorial. There is a brass plaque below with all the names of the fallen on it. Funds for this window were raised by public subscription, supplemented by the efforts of the congregation. The total cost was estimated to be £600. A former vicar sent £5 and Lord Joicey gave £50. Lord Joicey was a coal mining magnate and former Liberal Member of Parliament for Chester-le-Street.

The window depicts, on the left division, the call of Matthew, the centre depicts the Transfiguration of Jesus and the right shows the raising of the widow's son. At the foot of each of the 6 lights is an angel carrying a scroll. The dedication reads, "To the glory of God and in memory of the men whose names are recorded on the tablet below". At the very bottom of the right division, in the corner the window is signed Atkinson Bros.

It was unveiled in church on 2nd August 1922, by Lord Joicey, 37 years after the church was opened. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Durham.

crafty

Children at
St. Matthew's Church

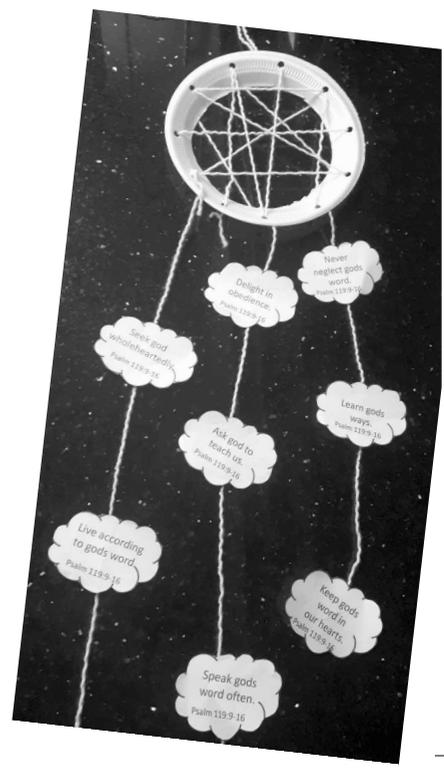




church

Our young church are always making things on a Sunday morning, which is why they are now our Crafty Church.

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In this modern day of super fast broadband, I wasn't aware that having Wi-Fi installed was totally dependent on having a good old fashioned letterbox, but it is. We are looking at having Wi-Fi installed into our church hall and everything was going well. We'd thought about possible Wi-Fi service providers, knew where we were putting the equipment and thought everything was hunky-dory. How wrong we were.

I rang a number of service providers to see what Wi-Fi connection packages were available to us, only to be told our hall did not appear anywhere on their electronic list of addresses. After numerous telephone calls, being bounced from pillar to post, I was eventually directed to Royal Mail. I really thought that Royal Mail was having

my life when they said, "You can't be put on the electronic list unless you have a good old fashioned letterbox that takes letters". I explained that the church hall has an address and a postcode, assured them that it had been there for over a hundred years and was on Google Earth, but to no avail. No amount of persuasion would change the fact – IT NEEDED A LETTERBOX!! To cut a long story short, a super new mailbox has now been installed, and we've been told the hall has been added to the electronic list.

Is that the end of the story, can we move on? Of course not, it can take up to six months for the electronic list to be updated to the company's electronic lists..... Isn't technology wonderful?

Ham and Lentil soup

You will need...

- 500g ham or ham shank
- 400g red lentils
- 2 onions
- 2 carrots
- 2 sticks celery
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 large potato
- 2 ltrs ham stock (total)
- Olive oil
- Salt & Pepper

Serves 4-6, depending on the portions.

How to make it

1. Boil gammon (until tender) with bay leaves and reserve stock (about ½ litre).
2. Chop all the vegetables.
3. Heat oil in a pan & add carrots, potato, celery, onions & garlic & gently cook.
4. Stir in washed lentils and 1½ ltrs stock plus stock from the gammon.
5. Simmer for 20-30 mins or until lentils are soft.
6. Whiz up the soup and add little cubes of gammon.
7. Season .

Freezes well





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In loving memory of Elsie Ellis from sister Peggy, Jack & family.

Timmy Graves

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mr. Timmy Graves on the 16th February 2018 at the "Laurels Care Home" in Hetton, aged 95 years.

Timmy served in the Army during the Second World War and told many interesting tales of his experiences whilst serving in the Far East.

He and his late wife Elsie were founder members, with others, of the Sunniside "Day Club", which continues today, now organised by "Age UK".

One of his interests was that of indoor bowls and this was enjoyed weekly in the Church Hall at Sunniside.

Timmy was a very generous supporter of The Church and for many years was treasurer and catering officer of "The Men's Fellowship" meeting.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his son David at this sad time.

Timmy will be greatly missed by his many friends in the community and particularly by those of us at Sunniside.

Notices & Information

FLOWER ARRANGING ROTA

Mrs Lydiatt Mrs Towers Mrs French Mrs Wilson Mrs Martin Flower preparation at 10.00am on the following March 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 31st April 6th 13th 20th 27th

SANCTUARY GUILD DONATIONS

Anonymous donation for flowers for Easter

Flowers from the funeral of Christine Kirkup

Flowers from the funeral of Alice Margaret Bradley

Donation for Mothering Sunday Flowers

In Memory of Mum Betty Stafford, Sister Janice Nordstrom, Auntie Alice Chrisp and Grandparents Frank and Lena Chrisp from Kathleen Allen

Anonymous donation for flowers

FABRIC FUND

In memory of dear Christine, a kind lady and good friend. From Marjorie, Kevin & Family

In memory of Christine Kirkup, a lovely lady who will be missed. All our love, Wendy Tweddle & Paul Masters

In loving memory of our dear friend Mrs. Christine Kirkup. From Brian & Margaret Gould

In loving memory of a very dear husband, Dad and Grandad. From Maud and Family

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

In memory of a dear sister, Pamela Greenhow

Donation from Carol Rust

Donation from Durham Diocesan Girls Friendly Society

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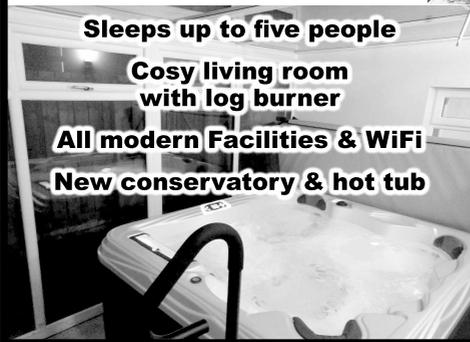
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St. Matthew's Church & Community Hall

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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)
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

Easter Services at St. Matthew's Church

Please come and join us at our Easter services

Palm Sunday 25th March

9.45am Parish Eucharist. & Blessing of Palm Crosses
6.00pm Evening worship.

Maundy Thursday 29th March

7.00pm Parish Eucharist – "Thanksgiving for Holy Communion".

Good Friday 30th March

1.00pm Holy Communion.
2.00pm "An Hour Before the Cross".
3.00pm Ends by singing "When I survey the wondrous cross".

Easter Day 1st April

9.45am Parish Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer with Holy Communion.

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

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

