

St Matthew's Newbottle

Chester-le-Street and Houghton
Deanery,
Diocese of Durham

Introduction

Newbottle is a traditional mining community and hold the view that St Matthew's Church is their church. Community attendance for festival services, Christmas Services and Church Fayres is high as well as being fully supported in terms of donations.



Our aim is to be a community of Christians who worship God and make a difference to people's lives. We do this by:

- reaching out to people with God's love.
- serving the people of Newbottle parish and surrounding areas.
- doing everything for Jesus, carrying out and showing God's love to everyone.

In short, St Matthew's church sits in the middle of a growing community and is led by extremely warm, welcoming, committed, open and faithful members.

We are seeking a 0.5FTE priest to serve us for the next year.

Worship

We have two services a week.

On Sundays at 9:45am we have our Parish Eucharist and a 10am Holy Communion service on Wednesdays.

We are interested in establishing new forms of church liturgy where faith can be explored by beginners/returners, and people can grow in discipleship.

Currently we are blessed with the support of (2) 3 active LLMs.

Mission and Discipleship

We are prayerfully committed to the calling that the church serves their community in action and in word.

We do this through active welcome, an open approach to occasional offices, festival services, engagement with local school via church visits and classroom visits. A large

pattern of wide-ranging special events held throughout the year that are open to the whole community and are very well attended/supported by the whole community, including special Christmas services attracting an attendance of 120+. Summer and Christmas Fayres, excellent pastoral care via telephone, visits, sending flowers and cards etc. An annual school art project created the artwork previously used for Easter card design, with 2000+ sent at Christmas and Easter each year.

As a church we support external charities such as their local food bank, shoe box appeal and Christian Aid to name but a few. The Lunch Club in their church hall is open to all within the community in which church members cook and provide all the food and refreshments! In addition to this they hold many events, such as Harvest Broth and Stottie night, Pancake party etc. in which the community have access to food and opportunity for fellowship.

We are keen to develop new mission opportunities regarding children and young people.

Thanks to the work of a recently licensed Reader, we have started a study group called 'Let's Talk' – a place for us to discuss the Christian faith.

Finance

We have a very generous and faithful attitude to giving and have committed to a £15K guided pledge.

Current planned giving sits at £9,894

37% increase in income; 38% increase in expenditure between 2021-2023

In receipt of grants equating to £18,960

Facilitate education grants for young people in the community through the Taylor Fund

Buildings

St Matthew's Church stands proudly at the head of Front Street. A grade II Listed Building, it is set within attractive grounds and on the edge of the wider rolling rural landscape. Originally built in 1850 as Newbottle Chapel to serve the village itself, Philadelphia, Bunker Hill, Junction Row and Sedgeleth, the Chapel of Ease became a parish church in 1865. The Earl of Durham gave generously towards the construction of St Matthew's and towards the later rebuilding of it in 1885-6. The Church as it stands today almost entirely dates from this later date. The architects of the second church were Oliver and Leeson of Newcastle. Built in the Early English style that was popular for churches of this period, it is constructed from rockface sandstone with a Welsh slate roof and features two stained glass windows in the north transept from the original church.

We also have a church hall that we use for various social and community events.

Both our church and our hall are in a good state of repair.

Leadership and Governance

We are committed to doing governance the right way are keen to foster a culture where everyone's opinions are heard and valued, and we have a determination to maintain a healthy culture in our church.

We have monthly PCC meetings, alongside monthly Shared Ministry Development Meetings.

We are currently trying to recruit a named Parish Safeguarding Officer and are committed to safeguarding seriously.

The Future

- We wish to see the establishment of new forms of church liturgy where faith can be explored by beginners/returners, and people can grow in discipleship.
- We want to grow work with children and youth through which the good news can be shared, and young people might realistically begin a journey of discipleship.
- Buildings: the church and church hall are sustainable and flexible in line with our RAG maintenance schedule.
- Finances, while challenging, are currently manageable: we have a realistic and generous approach to income, expenditure, and Parish Share.
- Governance is good and we wish to see healthy relationships maintained.

We have a commitment to share mission in the life of our church but are feeling the need for ordained leadership in our missional and worshipping life.

As such, we pray that God will call a faithful person to lead our faithful congregation.

To enquire about this post, please get in contact with the Ven. Libby Wilkinson,
Archdeacon of Durham

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