

# ***ST. BRANDON'S CHURCH BRANCEPETH***



***NEWSLETTER: April 2018***

Also online at: [www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter)

## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge

Associate Minister

Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) or  
alisonhobbs@stbrandon.org.uk

Lay Reader

Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (3735674)

Church Wardens:

Hester Higton (5974675)

James Morgan (4476520)

Secretary

Mike Higton (5974675)

Treasurer

Geoff Knott (01833 627094)

Deanery Synod

Evelyn Aitken (3789908)

David Eltringham (01388 746058)

John Jackson (3782392)

Other members:-

Jayne Cook (01388 731417) Jeanette Metcalfe (3781646)

Peter Cook (01388 731417) Isabel Rae (9039145)

Jean Hodgson (3780289) John Roberts (01388 748287)

Steve Hodgson (3780289)

Pastoral Assistant

Deborah Hodge (01388 745455)

Prayer Team

Deborah Hodge (01388 745455), Alison Hobbs (378 9670),  
Alison Moore (373 5674), Myrleen Stewart (378 0862).

Sunday School

Martin Peacock (07503242074)

Messy Church

Gillian Smellie (3739420) & Liz Thomas (3784465)

Organist

Richard Hird

Music

Jean Merrington (3780952)

Sacristans

Carol Beeby (3847431), Deborah Hodge (01388 745455),  
Jean Hodgson (3780289).

Safeguarding Officer

Geoff Moore (3735674)

Flower Guild

Lynne Hastie (3781871)

Churchyard

Edward Staines (3780858)

Youth Club

Geoff Moore (3735674), Martin Peacock (07503242074)

Worship Team

Hester Higton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Rev'd Fiona Eltringham,  
Deborah Hodge, Jean Hodgson, Jean Merrington, Geoff Moore,  
Sue Morgan.

SMD Team:

Hester Higton, Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Martin Peacock.

Fabric:

Jayne & Peter Cook, Steve Hodgson, John Jackson,  
James Morgan, John Morgan, John Roberts, Robert Scott-Biggs,  
Edward Staines.

Website

[www.stbrandon.org.uk](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk)

**May Newsletter entries - no later than April 20th**  
**Please send to Sue Morgan - [sueatpeppermires@gmail.com](mailto:sueatpeppermires@gmail.com)**

Dear Friends,

There have been a number of notable deaths recently: Sir Roger Bannister, Sir Ken Dodd and, perhaps most notably of all, Professor Stephen Hawking. (Ecclesiastes says there's a time to die – but perhaps a good time is not just *before* an unusual but nonetheless major celebrity!).

Roger Bannister is, of course, best known as the first human to break the four-minute mile in 1954. He had competed in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in the 1500-metres, coming a narrow fourth despite training only part-time because of his medical studies, and then set his sights on breaking the mile record. He always insisted, however, that his 40-year medical career was a greater achievement than the sub-four-minute mile. He was also a life-long churchgoer and his priest-daughter tells of reading prayers, psalms and hymns with him at his bedside shortly before he died.

Ken Dodd was also a committed churchgoer, regularly attending both Liverpool Cathedral and St John's Knotty Ash where he had sung as a choirboy. (Did you know, by the way, that the Liverpool football manager Jurgen Klopp has a daughter called Klippety?) The Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Rev'd Paul Bayes said of him: "He brought joy and delight to millions, and although so many of us are in grief and sorrow here, I'm sure that there will now be a fresh gale of laughter in heaven". Perhaps our loss is heaven's gain!

Yet interestingly, of the three of them, it was Stephen Hawking, the atheist, who probably had the most influence on matters of faith. Rev'd Professor David Wilkinson, Principal of St John's College Durham and author of *God, Time and Stephen Hawking*, said that Stephen Hawking had given the world an "optimism that science can deal with all of its own questions about the universe", but more than that, "he reminded us of the weakness of any 'God of the gaps' view of God". If we need a God only to explain what science can't, then of course there will be less and less room for God as science discovers more and more.

In his book *A Brief History of Time* (one of the most purchased and least read books of all time ... how far did you get?), Stephen Hawking, in a

more agnostic phase, asked, “What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe? ... Why does the universe go to all the bother of existing?” But in a later book, *The Grand Design*, written with an American physicist Leonard Mlodinow, they contended: “Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touchpaper and set the universe going”. In response to this, Archbishop Rowan Williams wrote at the time that belief in God was “the belief that there is an intelligent living agent on whose activity everything depends for its existence. Physics on its own will not settle the question why there is something rather than nothing”.

All of that, of course, tends to focus on the beginning of the universe and whether God was or wasn't involved. And while, in itself, that's an important issue, it leaves a lot else unsaid. As I write this (in Lent), we are in the process of focussing on another notable death, though by the time you read this, we may well have moved on from there to focus not on death but on life – new life, resurrection life, the Easter story.

At the heart of the Christian understanding of God is that, however it started, this isn't a world God has left to its own devices. Instead it's a world God has come to most particularly in Jesus, who, through his suffering and death, entered into all its dirt and pain and darkness including our own. And who, because of his resurrection from the dead, offers the prospect that the dirt, pain and darkness will not have the last word. And a God who offers the prospect that in time (well actually the other 'side' of it) there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

And quite possibly with Stephen Hawking there – who might well still be working out just how all *that* happened!

Best wishes for a blessed Easter,

Geoff Moore

p.s. You noticed the Ken Dodd joke, didn't you?

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**St Brandon's Church**  
**Sunday 22nd April, 11.30 a.m. (roughly)**

The church's Annual Meeting takes place on Sunday 22nd April, after the Parish Eucharist (at around 11.30 a.m.). Our hope in scheduling the meeting for this time is that many of those who have come for the service are then able to stay on for the Annual Meeting: please do.

The things we do in the meeting are important for the life and health of our church. It's the time when we elect the Church Wardens, the PCC and Deanery Synod reps; when we ask you to check that the accounts suggest we are running things properly; and when we review what the church has been doing.

Holding the meeting after the service means no extra journey out, just staying a little longer at church than we might do anyway. There's also a glass of wine available to help wash the reports down! If you see yourself as a member of St Brandon's, please come if you can.

If you wish to be able to vote in the meeting, you do need to be on the church's Electoral Roll (if you want to be elected to PCC, you also need to be on the Roll). This is not the same as the civil electoral roll, and if you have never signed a form to join the Roll, you won't be on it. Anyone who lives within the parish and/or has attended the church on a regular basis for at least six months is able to join the Roll – contact Carol Beeby to ask how to do this ([carol21beeby@btinternet.com](mailto:carol21beeby@btinternet.com)).

Papers will be circulated by email in mid-April. If you think that I might not have your email address and you would like to receive a copy of the papers, please drop me a note ([hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop](mailto:hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop)).

*Hester Higton,  
on behalf of the PCC*



# St. Brandon's April 2018 – services and readings

## 1st April, Easter Sunday Easter Vigil – 5.30 am

Readings: as set in service booklet  
Gospel: Mark 16:1–8

### All Age Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Gillian Smellie Acts 10:34–43  
Gospel: John 20:1–18  
Alison Moore Intercessions

### 8th April, Easter 2 Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Edward Staines Acts 4:32–35  
Second: Evelyn Aitken 1 John 1:1–2:2  
Gospel: John 20:19–end  
Deborah Hodge Intercessions

### 15th April, Easter 3 Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Jayne Cook Acts 3:12–19  
Second: Robert Scott-Biggs 1 John 3:1–7  
Gospel: Luke 24:36b–48  
Sally Scott-Biggs Intercessions

### 22nd April, Easter 4 Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Peter Cook Acts 4:5–12  
Second: John Roberts 1 John 3:16–end  
Gospel: John 10:11–18  
Geoff Moore Intercessions

This service is followed immediately by the

***Annual Parochial Church Meeting:***

church members, please stay if you can

## **29th April, Easter 5      Parish Eucharist – 10.15**

Readings: First:	Tom Hobbs	Acts 8:26–end
Second:	Wilfred Foxe	1 John 4:7–end
Gospel:		John 15:1–8
	Doris Dobson	Intercessions

## **6th May, Easter 6      Parish Eucharist – 10.15**

Readings: First:	Hester Higton	Acts 10:44–end
Second:	James Morgan	1 John 5:1–6
Gospel:		John 15:9–17

### **Sidespersons**

Apr 1<sup>st</sup>      (*Easter Dawn*)  
Apr 1<sup>st</sup>      (*Easter Day 10.15*)  
Peter & Jayne Cook

Apr 8<sup>th</sup>      Joan Nesbitt & Hester Higton  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>      Maud Oliver & Iris Waggott  
Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>      Jean Merrington & Steve Hodgson  
Apr 29<sup>th</sup>      Sally & Robert Scott-Biggs  
May 6<sup>th</sup>      Pat Sharples & David Eltringham

### **Servers**

Martin  
  
Bridget & Tom  
Higton  
Martin  
Jonny  
Tom Hobbs  
Tom Higton  
Bridget

### **Flowers**

April 1<sup>st</sup>      Easter Day  
April 8<sup>th</sup>      Wedding  
April 15<sup>th</sup>      Annette Johnson  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>      Meg Dewhirst  
April 29<sup>th</sup>      Norma Taylor  
May 6<sup>th</sup>      Hillary Moss

### **Coffee**

Norma Taylor  
Sue Morgan  
Jeanette Metcalfe  
Alison Moore  
Evelyn Aitken  
Norma Taylor

## **Church Cleaning**

**April:**        *Sue Morgan*, Bonny Bainbridge, Fiona Eltringham,  
Deborah Hodge & Alison Moore.

**May:**        *Evelyn Aitken*, Carolyn Knott, Jean Merrington,  
Myrleen Stewart, Iris & Bob Waggott.

### **VESTRY REPORT:** funerals; baptisms and weddings

The interment of ashes in the Circle of Remembrance:

10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Shirley Mason RIP

15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Derek O'Reilly RIP

We published the banns of marriage for Jonathan Richard Archer and Katherine Josephine Domingo, both of the parish of St. Peter's, Worbiton, Kingston-upon-Thames, marrying at St Brandon's on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018 by qualifying connection

### **Church enquiries**

For baptisms, weddings and funerals, please contact Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) or [alisonhobbs@stbrandon.org.uk](mailto:alisonhobbs@stbrandon.org.uk)

(Please use Alison's new church email for church business)

For church bookings, please contact Jean Hodgson (3780289)

For all other enquiries, please contact Hester Higon (5974675)

### **THANK YOU BRANCEPETH**

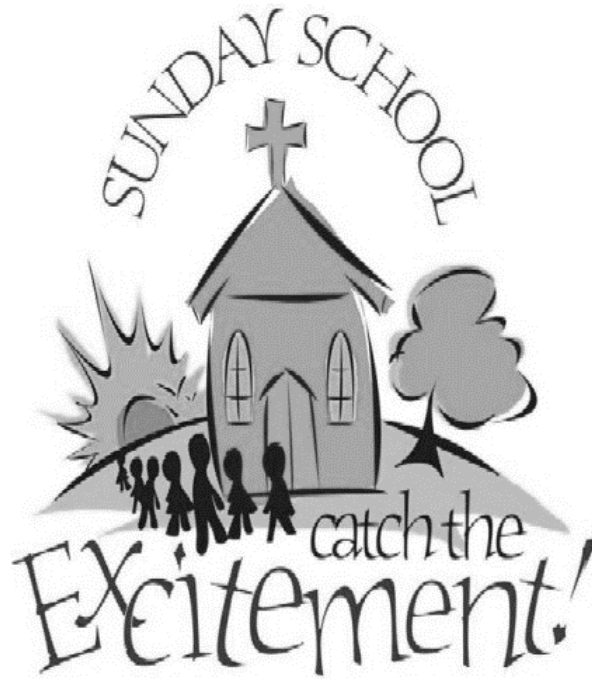
Many thanks for the abundance of gifts you donated to Durham Women's Refuge for Mothering Sunday. As always, your generosity was astounding and much appreciated by the women.

*Fiona Eltringham*

***Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate prayer,  
a visit, or perhaps to receive communion at home***

***Please tell Deborah Hodge, Authorised Pastoral Assistant, and she  
will get in touch. 01388 745455***





**Sunday mornings 10.15am. During Eucharist Service**

**Suitable for school age children. Bible stories, crafts, games. Leaders fully DBS checked.**

**Opportunity for children to worship informally with or without their grown ups, then re-join for the end of the Eucharist service.**

**Wiggly church area in Neville Chapel available for pre-schoolers to enjoy with their grown-ups. Speaker relay to overhear Eucharist Service**

## **Sunday School April 2018**

### **What does God look like?**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> No Sunday School!**

April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Peacock and Jeanette Metcalfe
<b>God is like a Dreamer</b>	<i>Psalms 37:4-5</i>

April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Martin Peacock and Valeria Dietz
<b>God is like a Guide</b>	<i>Isaiah 42:16</i>

April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Peacock and Deborah Hodge
<b>God is like Rain</b>	<i>Psalms 72:6</i>



**April 8th**  
**'Praise'**

**3-5pm**  
**IN CHURCH.**

**All ages welcome**  
**We love to see new faces & guarantee you a warm and friendly**  
**welcome .... & tons of fun!**  
**Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult**

**<http://www.messychurch.org.uk/church/st-brandons-messy-church>**

## **Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary April 2018**

**You are invited to use this diary and share in the prayers offered daily in church.**

***Alleluia Christ is risen. He is risen indeed Alleluia***

### **1 EASTER DAY JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY ALLELUIA**

2 Whitworth Lane and Black House

3 Oakenshaw Road

4 Give thanks for signs of returning spring to our fields and gardens

5 Quarry Hill and cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm and Goodwell Field

6 Pray for countries with too little rain – or too much. For our response to famine and drought

7 Pray for Valeriano and Alex being married in St Brandon's today. May they be blessed in their life together

### **8 EASTER 2 PRAY FOR MESSY CHURCH TODAY**

9 Station House and the Village North

10 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View

11 Springwell Farm, Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den

12 Goodwell Lea North

13 Goodwell Lea South

14 Pray for all those attending and hosting the progressive supper, for fun and fellowship

### **15 EASTER 3 GIVE THANKS FOR OUR LEADERS AND SERVICES AT ST BRANDONS**

16 Stockley Grove

17 For church members outside the parish

18 Durham Road and The Forge

19 Peppermires, Culmaran, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm,

20 Pray for good stewardship of our environment both locally and globally

21 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth

### **22 EASTER 4 PRAY FOR THE CHURCH APCM TODAY**

23 The Village South

24 The Castle and Lodge

25 St Mark Pray for evangelists and those who have helped us on our Christian journey

26 We pray for our care of the seas

27 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scipton Lodge, Scipton Farm

28 Pray for Sunday school Messy Church and Youth Club

### **29 EASTER 4 GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF THE BIBLE**

30 Holywell and East Parks

For May entries contact Myrleen Stewart 0191 378 0862

Brancepeth Community Association  
Village Progressive Supper  
Saturday 14th April

If you are new to the village/parish or if you have lived here for a while and not participated in anything, this is a great evening to start within - you meet for different courses with different people throughout the evening and agree to host one of the courses - it really is a lot of fun!

The evening begins at the village hall for canapés and drinks where you will be given an envelope informing you of where your first course is to be. The logistics of where people live will be taken into account to avoid drinking and driving. We then 'progress' to different houses for main course and desert, finally meeting up again in the village hall for cheese, port and coffee.

You do not have to be cordon bleu cooks to participate

.....(M&S do brilliant food)

It will be lovely to see some old and new faces. We will group those on their own with others so that everyone feels welcome.

Please complete the attached form and return it ASAP - but by April 1st.

We will let you know by the weekend of 7th April which course you are doing.

Val Gibbons & Josie Armstrong

RSVP on this form please by 1st April  
(sorry no late entries)

Progressive Supper  
Saturday 14th April 2018 at 7pm

Name(s)

Address

Tel No

e.mail

I/We could drive guests to their starter venue
I/We could cater for 6 people - including ourselves
I/We could cater for 8 people - including ourselves ( <i>please mark this as an option if you possibly can as it simplifies the arrangements</i> )
Do you have any dietary restrictions? e.g. Vegetarian,(please state if you eat fish) diabetic, food allergies or dislikes.

Please enclose £6 per person

(cash or cheque payable to Brancepeth Community Association)  
and return your form to :-

Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge 0191 3784200

Josie Armstrong, 4 Stockley House Farm 0788 2233118

If you would welcome a short time of Christian worship with friends and neighbours, we would love to see you.

You are invited to join us for a small and friendly home Eucharist service at 5 Russell Close



Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 11:00am

Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 11:00am

Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 11:00am

Rev'd Alison, and Deborah, St Brandon's Church

### **Brancepeth Youth Club**

*Sunday club nights are from 6.00 – 8.00pm.*

All young people in the Village (and beyond, and their friends) are warmly welcome.  
The age range is from 11 to 17 years inclusive. Dates for this term are:

April	15, 29
May	13, 27*
June	10, 24
July	8**

*\*This is the beginning of half term week, so nearer the time we'll need to confirm that there are enough to go ahead.*

*\*\* The BBQ will take place at The Castle. We'll work out details nearer the time.*

#### *Leaders*

Geoff Moore                      373 5674

Martin Peacock                378 4268

Sam Wilkes, Jonny Dobson, Tom and Alison Hobbs will also be helping to lead.



## Wednesday Coffee Morning    Village Hall 10.30 – 11.45

*All are very welcome – plus family & friends, any age!*

April	4 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Taylor
April	11 <sup>th</sup>	Janiece Spence & Evelyn Aitken
April	18 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Jones & Rob Waggott
April	25 <sup>th</sup>	Sheena Murray & Linda Larnach
May	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Evelyn Aitken & Bill Currie
May	9 <sup>th</sup>	Deborah & Bob Chapman
May	16 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Allatt & Joan Taylor
May	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jean & Jim Merrington
May	30 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Taylor & Janiece Spence
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	“Equaqliteas” Special celebration coffee morning.

If your turn is unsuitable please swap with someone else. Josie Armstrong, or Pat Allatt may be able to help.    Please let your partner know: -

*Pat Allatt 3780454*

*Linda Larnach 375 7554.*

*Stewart Allen 3780871*

*Rob Waggott 3783592*

*Evelyn Aitken 3789908*

*Vivienne Lowe 3780974*

*Josie Armstrong 01388 748902*

*Jean Merrington 3780952*

*Deborah Chapman 3781409*

*Sheena Murray 378 1097*

*Bill Currie 3783414*

*Janiece Spence 4356357*

*Christine Jones 3789297*

*Joan Taylor 3783630*

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### **Book Club**

**April's book club will be hosted by Josie Armstrong at Low Barn Cottage, Scription Lane on Friday 13 April, 7.30 p.m. The chosen book is "The Warden" by Anthony Trollope.**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Val Gibbons**

## **GARDEN CLUB**

### **Future events for 2018.**

Spring Show and AGM Wed. 18 April. Resolutions will be accepted up to the start of the meeting. A resolution we will be debating is whether to raise Garden Club subscriptions – from £2.50 to £5. This would be the first change in 28 years.

There is still a vacancy on the committee – nominations gratefully received – again, up to the start of the meeting.

As usual there will be refreshments and nibbles after the AGM.

Spring Show schedules are now available from monitors, on the shelf in the village hall committee room, and on the Community Association website - <http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk>

Walkabout Friday 29 June

Annual Show 22 September

Visit to Hall's of Heddon – , 5 October.

Further events in later newsletters.



## **Brancepeth Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Club**

The AGM of Brancepeth Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Club will be held on Sunday 22nd April at 7.00pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

All members and interested gardeners welcome.

John Morgan (Chair)



# BCA Cinema Club

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**

## **“ I, DANIEL BLAKE ”**

**Award winning and critically lauded. Written by Paul Laverty, directed by Ken Loach and set in Newcastle, an astonishing story of triumph and adversity in modern day Britain.**



## **Spring Quiz Night**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**7:15pm Village Hall**

**Team sizes 2-10**

**Nibbles & Pie & peas supper (bring own drinks)**

**Tickets: £6 (£7 non-members)**

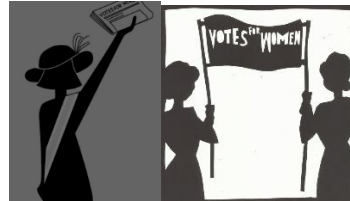
**Available from: Peter Aitken 378 9908/George Gibbons 378 4200**

**or [jdalton2103@gmail.com](mailto:jdalton2103@gmail.com) (proceeds to BCA)**



## **CELEBRATION OF YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**

VOTE 100 – All Day Open Event – everyone welcome!



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Village Hall**

2018 marks 100 years since Parliament passed a law which allowed the first women, and all men, to vote for the first time in Parliamentary elections. Brancepeth Community Association (BCA) and the Brancepeth Archives and History Group are hosting an open day event to mark occasion – which will include:

**Themed Coffee morning**

**All Day History Exhibition**

**Lunch & afternoon tea shop**

**Matinee & evening cinema showings of the blockbuster  
'Suffragette'**

Further information in the next newsletter...

Would anyone be interested in creating a Writing Group ?

With the aim of meeting to write poetry or prose, fiction or non ,  
and maybe to perform or publish ?

If so please contact Janiece Spence at 0191 435 6357 or  
[Janiece@talktalk.net](mailto:Janiece@talktalk.net) to discuss possible times and venue.

# **Streetwise Opera's 'Tell Me the Truth About Love'**

Hello good people of Brancepeth!

**Streetwise Opera's** new production will take place at Sage Gateshead on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April and I hope some of you can come. It's a funny, moving and poignant new opera called ***Tell Me the Truth About Love*** – the story of a bridesmaid who is looking for love at her sister's wedding on Tyneside. Music comes from a wide variety of sources including a lot of local music by Will Todd, Jimmy Nail, Bridie Jackson; Water of Tyne, Blaydon Races – plus works by Britten, Tchaikovsky, Stevie Wonder and more! The Streetwise Opera performers will be joined by local soprano Anna Huntley and the production is directed by Olivier-Award winning Bijan Sheibani.

There are shows at 5pm and 8pm on 14<sup>th</sup> and 3pm and 6pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April. There is a group discount for parties of 8 or more so if a group from Brancepeth was able to come, it'll be much cheaper!

Matt Peacock (brother of the wonderful Martin and former Brancepethian)

Thank you!

**Matt Peacock**  
**Artistic Director, Streetwise Opera**

**Director, With One Voice**

020 7730 9551

[www.streetwiseopera.org](http://www.streetwiseopera.org)

[www.with-one-voice.com](http://www.with-one-voice.com)

Book tickets for Tell Me The Truth About Love, our Tyneside #LoveOpera, in April 2018 at Sage Gateshead

**Postal address: 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG |**  
**Registered charity number: 1092931**

# OPERA NOVA

presents

## **feuds, family, friendships: a musical journey**

A light classical concert featuring extracts from a variety of musicals and operas including West Side Story, Rigoletto, The Pearl Fishers, HMS Pinafore and many more.

**Saturday 2nd June at 7:30 pm**

in St. Brandon's Church, Brancepeth

**Tickets: £12 adults   £1 under 16s and students**

available from Mary Coffield

(tel: 07936 080535) or email: [mary.coffield@googlemail.com](mailto:mary.coffield@googlemail.com)

## *Harrogate Spring Flower Show*

*Thursday, 26th April*

There are still seats available. Cost is £35 which includes entry at the reduced price of £18.50 – instead of £21. The Weardale Motor Services bus will leave Brancepeth (meet beside Cricket field) at 8.45 am. Money is due now as I need to order the tickets online.

Allee Longstaff, 2 Foxes' Row - 01913780707

## *Queen of Fashion - Marie Antoinette*

Please remember that this 'fashion show' will be on the evening of Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, and promises to be as good as the Tudor Show which so many of you enjoyed.



## **BRANCEPETH COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Brancepeth Community and the Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) are working together to respond to complaints of speeding traffic on the A690 through Brancepeth Village and on Wolsingham Road.

A successful Pilot of Community Speed Watch (CSW) within Durham in 2013/2014 has now been rolled out which involves trained volunteers to experience first hand the scale of the issue and how reality matches their perceptions, as well as educating motorists to respect the posted speed limits.

Whilst CSW is an education tool for the Community, it includes an “Escalation” process if CSW identifies a significant speed problem over time. The NPT can then call upon the assistance from Special Operations Unit (SOU) for further intervention and longer-term solutions.

Volunteers from Brancepeth, trained by NPT, have been observing and recording traffic behavior since 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and forwarded details to our local NPT team who have then issued letters to speeding motorists. Overall we have found positive support from motorists for CSW and no significant adverse reactions.

CSW is seeking additional volunteers from the Brancepeth Community to continue this work. After training by NPT, volunteers would be required for a minimum of one CSW Session per month lasting no more than 2 hours including setting up time. If you would like further information or would like to observe the CSW at work, please contact Michael O’Connell on 07939 116550.

### **Any Budding Seafishers out there?**

I’ve started doing a little boat seafishing for cod etc and wondered if there is anyone out there interested in setting up a small group which could make the occasional booking for a day out of Port of Tyne/Hartlepool or Sunderland. No real experience needed and most boats will hire out rods if you don’t have one. It tends to cost around £30-40 per person per day, (or more if a small group decides to takes the boat to itself) but there’s always the likelihood of at least the occasional fresh fish.

Email me on [stuartsmellie60@gmail.com](mailto:stuartsmellie60@gmail.com) or ring me on 0191 373 9420.

All the best

Stuart Smellie

## Dates for the Diary:-

April	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Snooker Club
April	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Yoga
April	3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Knit & Natter
April	<i>Check dates with Jean</i>	Tuesday	Choir
April	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Exercise Class
April	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Coffee Morning
April	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Art Class
April	5 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Badminton
April	15 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Youth Club

### ***Please confirm dates with leaders***

April	8 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Messy Church. 3pm-5pm, Church
April	11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Cinema Club, 'I, Daniel Blake'. 7.30pm – V H
April	13 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm – Low Barn Cottage.
April	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Progressive Supper. 7pm –start at Village Hall
April	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Streetwise Opera 5pm & 8pm – Sage Gateshead
April	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Streetwise Opera 3pm & 6pm – Sage Gateshead
April	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Garden Club AGM & Spring Show
April	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club AGM 7.00pm –Committee Room , Village Hall.
April	26 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	Harrogate Spring Flower Show Trip
May	11 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Spring Quiz Night, 7.15. Village Hall
May	18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Fashion Show – Village Hall
June	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sat	Opera Nova. 7.30pm – Church
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	All Day 'Vote 100' Event Village hall
June	29 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Garden Club Walkabout
Sept	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sat	Garden Club Annual Show
Oct	5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Garden Club visit to Hall's of Heddon

***Village Hall:*** please contact Geraldine Jennings –

[gerryjennings5@googlemail.com](mailto:gerryjennings5@googlemail.com) or tel. 3781583

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*Back cover ©Hester Higton- The Bishop's Consort performing on Passion Sunday 2018*

[www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter)

***May Newsletter entries no later than 20<sup>th</sup> April***

***Please send to Sue Morgan at [sueatpeppermires@gmail.com](mailto:sueatpeppermires@gmail.com)***

## **Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee**

George Gibbons	<i>Chairman</i>	Phil Davison	<i>Building coordinator</i>
John Morgan	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Alison Hobbs	<i>Church</i>
Peter Aitken	<i>Secretary</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Subscription</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Social Events</i>	Rosemary Monument	<i>Choir</i>
James Dalton	<i>IT</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Wednesday Coffee</i>

<http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/> Tel: 0191 3783952

## **Parish Activities**

Chairman B.C.A.	George Gibbons, 3 The Forge (3784200)
Secretary	Peter Aitken, The Copse, Foxes Row (3789908)
Treasurer	Margot Harrison, Downsgarth (3784813)
Membership	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Hall Bookings	Geraldine Jennings, 5 Goodwell Lea (3781583)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Badminton	Peter Hodge, (01388 745455)
Brancepeth Allotment	John Morgan, (3781172)
& Leisure Gardeners' Club	baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (3784200)
Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (3782748)
Garden Club	Barry Dickinson (3782398)
Snooker Bookings	Geraldine Jennings (3781583)
Wednesday Coffee	Joan Taylor (3783630)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674)

## **Parish Council**

Chairperson	Christine Jones (3789297)
	Dave Armstrong (01388 748902)
	Jessie Brown (3782748)
	James Dalton (3780771)
	Michael Lowe (3780974)
	Jim Merrington (3780952)
	Philip Pickles (07785998431)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346
	Lynne Rowland 07800516127

## **County Councillors:**

[olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk](mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk)  
[fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk)

[www.brancepeth-parish-council.org](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org)

