

ST. BRANDON'S CHURCH
BRANCEPETH



NEWSLETTER: December 2018

Also online at: 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 Robert Scott-Biggs (3735907).
 David Eltringham (01388 746058)
 John Jackson (3782392)

Other members:-

Jayne Cook (01388 731417)	Jeanette Metcalfe (3781646)
Peter Cook (01388 731417)	Sue Morgan (3781172) – co-opted
Jean Hodgson (3780289)	Isabel Rae (9039145)
Steve Hodgson (3780289)	John Roberts (01388 748287)

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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), Valeria Dietz.
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:	James Morgan (chair), Peter Cook, Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Geoff Knott, John Roberts, Robert Scott-Biggs, Edward Staines.
Website	www.stbrandon.org.uk

January Newsletter entries - no later than December 18th

Please send to Sue Morgan - sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Advent – the period of four weeks leading up to Christmas – marks the beginning of the church year. It seems like an odd time of year to think of beginnings. The last leaves have fallen from the trees. It is hard to remember a time when it was light when we got up in the morning, and the winter stretches ahead in apparently endless months of darkness and cold.

And yet even at this time of year there are signs of life in the world around. The yellow stars of winter jasmine flowers glimmer against stone walls. The white and pink cyclamen huddle in the leaf mould under the bare trees. Clusters of tiny white or pink flowers sprig the evergreen gloss of the viburnum leaves.

Through Advent we prepare to remember a time when God touched a world shrouded in darkness, despair and gloom. When we look closely at a humble inn in a small town in the outer reaches of the Roman empire, we find the bright light of the gift of God's son, Jesus, shining in the darkness. That birth promised the beginning of a new hope not only for Israel but for the whole world.

We have a particularly special beginning to look forward to in Brancepeth in the coming year. At some point in the spring, when the signs of new life are all around us, we will be welcoming a new priest-in-charge to our village. We are delighted to be able to announce that Anna Brooker will be moving in to the rectory, alongside her husband, Nick. For the last few years Anna has been looking after the parishes of Shotton Colliery, Haswell and South Hetton. We hope in the January edition to be able to give exact details of the timing of her installation and licensing at St Brandon's.

I am sure that you will join with us in providing a warm Brancepeth welcome to Anna and Nick as they settle in. In the meantime, on behalf of all at St Brandon's, I wish you a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Hester Higon

St Brandon's December 2018 – service and readings

2nd December, Advent 1

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings:	First:	John Jackson	Jeremiah 33:14–16
	Second:	Jean Merrington	1 Thessalonians 3:9–13
	Gospel:		Luke 21:25–36
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions

9th December, Advent 2

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings:	First:	Steve Hodgson	Malachi 3:1–4
	Second:	Alison Moore	Philippians 1:3–11
	Gospel:	Luke 3:1–6	
		Geoff Knott	Intercessions

16th December, Advent 3

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings:	First:	Deborah Hodge	Zephaniah 3:14–20
	Second:	Bianca Allen	Philippians 4:4–7
	Gospel:	Luke 3:7–18	
		Wilfred Foxe	Intercessions

Carol Service – 6.30 pm

Readings to be arranged by Martin Peacock

23rd December, Advent 4

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings:	First:	Gillian Smellie	Micah 5:2–5a
	Second:	Edward Staines	Hebrews 10:5–10
	Gospel:	Luke 1:39–55	
		Deborah Hodge	Intercessions

24th December, Christmas Eve Christingle – 5.00 pm

Readings to be arranged by Martin Peacock

Midnight Communion – 11.30 pm

Readings:	First:	Peter Cook	Isaiah 52:7–10
	Second:	Wilfred Foxe	Hebrews 1:1–12
	Gospel:	John 1:1–14	

25th December, Christmas Day All Age Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Robert Scott Biggs Isaiah 9:2–7
Gospel: Luke 2:1–14
Martin Peacock Intercessions

30th December, Christmas 1 Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: John Roberts 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26
Second: Tom Hobbs Colossians 3:12–17
Gospel: Luke 2:41–52
Edward Staines Intercessions

6th January, Epiphany Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First: Ulrike Hobbs Isaiah 60:1–6
Second: James Morgan Ephesians 3:1–12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12
tba Intercessions

Village Carol Singing
23rd and 24th December

If you enjoy singing Christmas carols, why not join us as we sing our way around Brancepeth? You'll be assured of many warm and hospitable welcomes on both evenings. Meet at the village crossroads at 6.30 pm. North of the crossroads on the 23rd; Stockley Grove and south of the crossroads on Christmas Eve, concluding at 1 The Village. All ages and abilities welcome – just bring your enthusiasm! All proceeds go to charity.

Sidespersons

Dec 2 nd	Jean Merrington & Hester Higton
Dec 9 th	Maud Oliver & Iris Waggott
Dec 16 th	Ann & John Roberts
Dec 16 th	Jayne & Peter Cook
(Carol Service 6.30pm)	
Dec 23 rd	Pat Sharples & David Eltringham
Dec 24 th	Hester & Tom Higton & Deborah Hodge
(Christingle 5.00pm)	
Dec 24 th	Sally & Robert Scott Biggs
(Midnight Communion 11.30pm)	
Dec 25 th	Steve Hodgson & Bianca Allen
Dec 30 th	Myrleen Stewart & Bonny Bainbridge
Jan 6 th	Carolyn & Geoff Knott

Servers

Tom Higton
Bridget
Tom Hobbs
Sam
Jonny
Tom Higton
Martin
Bridget

Flowers

Dec 2 nd	Advent 1 Greening
Dec 9 th	Advent 2
Dec 16 th	Advent 3
Dec 23 rd	Advent 4
Dec 30 th	Guild
Jan 6 th	Epiphany

Coffee

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

Church Cleaning

<i>December:</i>	<i>Sue Morgan, Bonny Bainbridge, Fiona Eltringham, Deborah Hodge & Alison Moore.</i>
<i>January:</i>	<i>Evelyn Aitken, Carolyn Knott, Jean Merrington, Myrleen Stewart, Iris & Bob Waggott.</i>

Church enquiries

For baptisms, weddings and funerals, please contact Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) or 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 Higton (5974675)



DH7 ADVENT COURSE

Please join us for the DH7 Advent Study Group in the Village Hall.

We will be following the York Course 'Life to the Full'.

If you would enjoy a time of Christian fellowship with a friendly group - an hour of study followed by tea, cakes and chat round the fire - then this is for you! Come for one session or all four and be assured of a very warm welcome.

Dates and Times

Friday 7 December 2 - 3.30

Friday 14 December 2 - 3.30

For more details contact Deborah Hodge 01388 745455 0779124 1608

Myrleen Stewart 0191 378 0862

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 **3 Russell Close**

Tuesday 4th Dec 2018 at 11:00am

Tuesday 15th Jan 2018 at 11:00am

Tuesday 11th Feb 2018 at 11:00am



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

VESTRY REPORT: funerals; baptisms and weddings

The interment of ashes in the Circle of Remembrance:
17th November 2018, Ronald Graham Gregory Foley, and
Florence Foley RIP

Brancepeth Youth Club

December 2018 and January 2019

Sunday club nights are from 6.00 – 8.00pm in the Village Hall

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 the remainder of this term
and the beginning of next are:

2nd December

13th January

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674

Martin Peacock 378 4268

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

Book Club

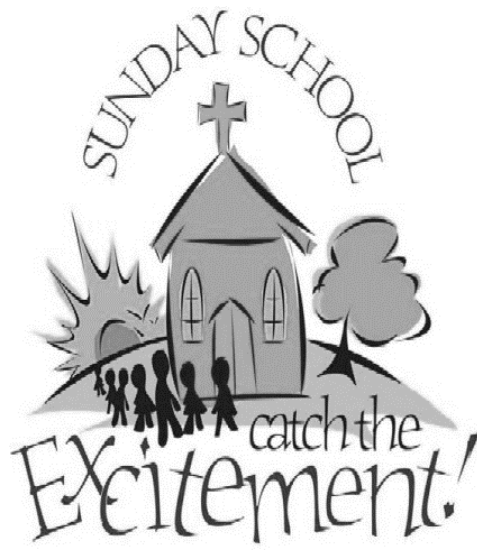
Next meeting on 7th December at Josie Armstrong's house, 4 Stockley House, 7.30 p.m. The book for discussion is *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.

On Friday January 11th we will meet at Dawn Ellis's home, 24 Goodwell Lea at 7.30 p.m. to discuss the thriller "You let me in" by Lucy Clarke.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons

***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 74545***



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

December 2018

Sessions based on the Carol Service readings

December 2nd 'And the word became flesh . . .' **(John 1:1-14)**

Martin Peacock and Carol Beeby

December 9th 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord. . .' **(Luke 1:26-49)**

Martin Peacock and Deborah Hodge

December 16th ' . . .and laid him in a manger' **(Luke 2:1-20)**

Martin Peacock and Valeria Dietz



Dec 9th
Christmas party
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 Advent and December 2018

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

1 For this December to be a month of gratitude, expectancy and openness to God

2 Advent 1 Youth Club and Sunday School

3 For all who live in Stockley Grove

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

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

6 **St Nicholas** for people who have plenty, to give generously to others

7 Oakenshaw Road

8 Village Show tonight

9 Advent 2 Messy Church (party today!)

10 The Castle and Lodge

11 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View

12 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm

13 Goodwell Lea

14 The Village Hall and Golf Club

15 Whitworth Lane and Black House

16 Advent 3 Carol Service

17 Peppermires, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm, Holywell and East Parks

18 Durham Road and the Forge

19 Pray for Bridge Road and Tanglewood

20 Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth

21 Village North, Station House and Cottages

22 The Village South

23 Advent 4 Christmas week

24 **Christmas Eve** for all who find the Christmas season difficult

25 **Christmas Day** for deep joy that Christ was born

26 **St Stephen** for courage in following the way of Christ

27 **St John** for vision and understanding

28 **Holy Innocents** for compassion

29 For realism and humility as we look back on the year

30 **Last Sunday of 2018** Give thanks for those who work for the future of our planet

31 **New Year's Eve** For new beginnings, hopeful of God's promised and preferred future for us



**Shoe Boxes collected in church at the service
on November 18th for Operation Christmas
Child.**

BCA CINEMA CLUB



The Snowman



Friday 28th December, 3pm, Village Hall

Free Entry – children to be accompanied by an adult. All welcome ...no age limit!

Ice-creams for sale...bring your own drinks/sweets/cushions



Xmas Quiz...ho ho ho!

Friday 30th November 2018, 7:15pm

Village Hall

Team sizes 2-8

Turkey Pie & Seasonal Veg (bring own drinks)

(veg option please book in advance) Raffle & Prizes!

Tickets: £7 member (£8 non-members) Available from: Josie Armstrong: jo.arm@me.com /

Peter Aitken 378 9908 / Jo Dalton: jdalton2103@gmail.com (proceeds to BCA)

Wednesday Coffee Morning Village Hall 10.30 – 11.45

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

Dec	5 th	Sheena Murray & Linda Larnach
Dec	12 th	Janiece Spence and Vivienne Lowe
Dec	19 th	Jean & Jim Merrington
Dec	26 th	Boxing Day – no coffee
Jan	2 nd	Josie Armstrong & Gillian Smellie
Jan	9 th	Lynda Blakesly & Stephanie Stephenson
Jan	16 th	Joan Taylor & Pat Allatt
Jan	23 rd	Christine Jones & Rob Waggott
Jan	30 th	Evelyn Aitken & Bill Currie
Feb	6 th	Linda Larnach & Joan Taylor

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

Rob Waggott 3783592

Evelyn Aitken 3789908

Josie Armstrong 01388 748902

Bill Currie 3783414

Christine Jones 3789297

Lynda Blakesly & Stephanie Stephenson 07788420930

Gillian Smellie 3739420

Linda Larnach 375 7554.

Sheena Murray 378 1097

Vivienne Lowe 3780974

Jean Merrington 3780952

Janiece Spence 4356357

Joan Taylor 3783630

Knit and Natter

The last Knit and Natter session this year will be Tuesday 27 November. It will re-commence on Tuesday January 8th.

New Year's Day Invitation to the Castle

Cheese and Chat at the Castle, midday to 3pm. Donations invited to Send A Cow or The Children's Society, all welcome, just turn up!



BRANCEPETH TAI CHI EXERCISE CLUB

CHARITY DONATIONS

Representatives of seven local Charities were each presented with a cheque for £100 at Brancepeth Village

Hall on Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 1030. The Charities are:

Brancepeth Community Association

Harbour Support Services for Durham Women's Refuge

St Cuthbert's Hospice

Great North Air Ambulance

Children's Foundation

Open Gate, Durham

Talking Newspaper, Langley Moor

The money has been made available by Brancepeth Tai Chi Exercise Club which was established over two years ago to provide gentle exercise for people living in an around Brancepeth Village. Members meet at the Village Hall every Wednesday morning from 0930-1030 to practice Tai Chi, which is suitable for everyone including those with restricted movement, as well as improved mobility and flexibility. Afterwards, members can meet up at the Coffee Morning where they can have coffee or tea with a selection of home-made scones and cakes.

Deborah Chapman Brancepeth Tai Chi Exercise Club (0191 3781409)

Christmas Break

The last day for the Tai Chi Exercise Club for 2018 will be Wednesday 19th December returning Wednesday 9th January 2019

The Christmas Show

In
The Village Hall
on

Saturday December 8th

Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 7.30. Party afterwards at 7 Goodwell Lea. Contributions of finger food for the interval, food and drink for the party gratefully received.

Tickets: Members of BCA £7 adults, £3 children.
Non-members £8 adults, £4 children. Price includes 1 drink and snacks.

Available at dress rehearsal or from Rosemary Monument, mwmonument@gmail.com

Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association
Reg charity 504318

Festive Charity Fundraising Bash

...Save the Date:

A not so Silent Night!



Retro Speakeasy Jazz night featuring....

'The Post Modernaires'

Friday 14th December 2018

8pm, Village Hall

Black Tie/Band/Casino

Tickets £22

(includes: a glass of fizz on arrival & light supper – bring own drinks for table)

contact Josie Armstrong for tickets: Jo.arm@me.com / 0788 22 33 118

The Post Modernaires has a tremendous following – check them out on you tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWAWt6Knfd0>

Proceeds to:



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**

Dates for the Diary:-

Dec	3 rd 10 th 17 th	Monday	Snooker Club
Dec	3 rd 10 th 17 th	Monday	Yoga
Recommences 8 th Jan		Tuesday	Knit & Natter
Dec	contact Jean Merrington	Tuesday	Choir
Dec	5 th 12 th 19 th	Wed	Exercise Class
Dec	5 th 12 th 19 th	Wed	Coffee Morning
Dec	5 th 12 th 19 th	Wed	Art Class
Dec	6 th 13 th 20 th	Thursday	Badminton
Dec	2 nd	Sunday	Youth Club

Please confirm dates with leaders

Dec	7 th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm. 4 Stockley House.
Dec	8 th	Sat	Christmas Show, Village Hall
Dec	9 th	Sun	Messy Church, Christmas Party. 3pm-5pm, Church
Dec	14 th	Fri	Festive Charity Fundraising Bash, 8.00pm, VH
Dec	16 th	Sun	Carol Service, Church, 6.30pm.
Dec	23 rd / 24 th	Sun / Mon	Village Carol Singing, Cross Roads, 6.30pm.
Dec	24 th	Mon	Christmas Eve Christingle Service, Church, 5.00pm.
Dec	28 th	Fri	Cinema Club, 'The Snowman' 3.00pm, VH
Jan	1 st	Tues	New Year Cheese & Chat. 12 noon -3pm, Castle
Jan	8 th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm. 24 Goodwell Lea.

Village Hall: please contact Geraldine Jennings –

gerryjennings5@googlemail.com or tel. 3781583

Front cover © Elizabeth Metcalfe– Christmas Tree in church

Back cover © Peter Aitken - Brancepeth village Parish Councillors, Chairman and Secretary of Brancepeth Community Association, with the DLI wreath laid at the ceremony on Armistice Day at Thiepval, Somme. They also laid the list of those from Brancepeth Parish who fell in WW1.

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

NB January Newsletter entries no later than 18th December
Please send to Sue Morgan at 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>Website & Fundraising</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Choir</i>
James Dalton	<i>IT</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Wednesday Coffee</i>
Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Events</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

County Councillors:

olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk
fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org

