

A photograph of St Brandon's Church in Brancepeth, featuring a stone building with Gothic-style windows and a tall spire, partially obscured by bare tree branches. The foreground is filled with a field of yellow daffodils.

# St Brandon's Church Brancepeth

**NEWSLETTER: April 2020**

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



World day of Prayer  
Messy Church Litter Picking



Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or <a href="mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk">rector@stbrandon.org.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:anna.brooker@durham.ac.uk">anna.brooker@durham.ac.uk</a>
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) <a href="mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk">alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk</a>
Curate	Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop (01388 730855) <a href="mailto:s.u.tenge-heslop@durham.ac.uk">s.u.tenge-heslop@durham.ac.uk</a>
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 Roberts (01388 748287)
Other members:-	
	Jayne Cook (01388 731417) Steve Hodgson (3780289)
	Peter Cook (01388 731417) Sue Morgan (3781172)
	Tom Hobbs (07857437860) Isabel Rae (9039145)
	Jean 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	Liz Thomas (3784465)
Organist	Richard Hird
Village Choir	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	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

May Newsletter entries – no later than **April 15th**

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

# Sure and Certain Hope

Dear friends

I write this letter amidst great uncertainty over the current pandemic and all it will mean for us individually, locally, nationally and globally. You won't read this for about a fortnight, so I will not attempt to predict where we will be by then...

Instead, I'd like to share with you how we are approaching this time as a church, and about the sure and certain hope in God which is at the heart of our faith,

I know that this newsletter is necessarily full of cancellations of the many village activities which won't be happening after all. At St Brandon's, as in every other parish church, we are compiling a Parish *Continuity* Plan, and thinking about how we can *continue* to worship God, to grow in our faith, to support one another and to offer pastoral and practical care alongside others in the community. This means we will continue to:

- Follow Church of England advice on the impact of COVID-19 and provide updates on the Church website
- Keep St Brandon's church open during the day for as long as possible. We don't foresee the need to close, so please visit the church as and when you can and take time for personal prayer and reflection.
- Hold a service of Morning Prayer at 8.15am each day Monday- Friday, with a particular focus on praying for those who are self-isolating or ill, so please do let me or others know who is in this situation. If we can't meet in church, we will say Morning Prayer in our homes using the church's daily readings. Do join us via the Daily Prayer app or Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer)
- Ring the church bells whenever possible!

We don't know about Sunday services but will keep our website updated with latest plans, including of course our services in Holy Week and Easter, beloved of so many in the village. We will miss marking this time all together, and the village Choir singing, but we will continue to worship, whether separately or together, at the published times, to mark these key events in the life of Christ and in our Christian faith.

Without the death and resurrection of Christ which we will remember this month, Christianity and churches would simply not exist. If Jesus had just been born, lived and died, he might have been famous and influential for a few years until the next great teacher or prophet came along. Instead, at his resurrection everything changed, for all time, and his followers were empowered by his Spirit to continue his work and share God's love far and wide. The resurrection proved that the power of evil and death has been broken, and 'opened the gate of heaven to all believers', as we say in our Communion services. This sure

and certain hope in what Christ has done for us means that we trust in God not only for this life but for eternity.

Whatever the situation by Easter Day, let us rejoice that Christ is alive and hold on to God's hope to strengthen, sustain and inspire us:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15: 13)*

With all good wishes

*Anna*

Anna Brooker

Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church

A poem for Good Friday by Anne Lewin (from *Watching for the Kingfisher*, Inspire, 2004)

## **Rood-tree**

I might have been his cradle,  
Rocking him, folding  
Securely against harm.

I could have been a ship,  
Turning my sturdy timbers  
To the wind, keeping him  
Safe from harm.

Instead, they used me as  
His cross.

No infant rages rocked the  
Cradle tree, or storm lashed ship  
Such as unleashed on me  
That day. Shock waves of hatred  
Crashed against me, bearing  
On me through his body  
Weight of world's pain,  
Weight of his agony;  
wringing from him  
Drop by drop,  
'Why, God, you too?'

No comfortable protection  
Could I offer, or deliverance;  
Only support, his mainstay in distress.  
But did I hold him, or did he  
With strength of purpose lovingly  
Embrace his work of suffering,  
Stretched on my arms?

They say it was a tree whose fruit  
Brought sorrow to the world.  
The fruit I bore,  
Though seeming shame,  
They call salvation,  
My glory was it then,  
To be his tree.

***Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or a friendly chat?***

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

You are invited to join us for a small and friendly home  
Eucharist service at **3 Russell Close**



Tuesday 7th Apr 2020 at 11:00am

Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 11:00am

Tuesday 9th Jun 2020 at 11:00am

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

**These meetings may also be suspended, if you are thinking of taking part please contact Rev'd Alison or Deborah first.**

## St Brandon's response to changes imposed by the Covid- 19 situation

As face-to-face meeting for worship has been suspended by the Church of England, St Brandon's is developing new ways to worship together remotely on a Sunday morning. All regular members of the congregation should have been contacted by now about how to sign up for this. If you have not heard from us and would like to be involved, please send an email to

[hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop](mailto:hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop) or call Hester or Mike on 0191 597 4675.

Details will also be posted on the church website at [stbrandon.org.uk](http://stbrandon.org.uk). We expect there will be some teething problems to begin with, but hope that we will soon be able to settle in to a new way of joining together for worship.'

### St Brandon's April 2020– Services and readings

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

Readings

First:

Second:

Gospel:

#### Parish Eucharist 10.15

Jean Hodgson

Nick Brooker

Alison Moore

Isiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21: 1-11

Intercessions

#### HOLY WEEK:

##### Monday 6th April

Readings

First:

Gospel:

##### Eucharist – 7.30 pm

Hebrews 9: 11-15

Matthew 21: 12-17

##### Tuesday 7th April

Readings

First

Gospel:

##### Eucharist – 7.30 pm

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Matthew 21: 18-26

##### Wednesday 8th April

Readings

First:

Gospel:

##### Eucharist – 7.30 pm

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Matthew 26: 1-16

##### Maundy Thursday 9th April by Vigil

Eucharist, with foot washing – 7.30 pm, followed

Readings: First:	Steve Hodgson	Exodus 12: 1–4, 11–14
Second:	Jayne Cook	1 Corinthians 11: 23–26
Gospel:		Matthew 26: 17-30

**Good Friday 10th April  
- 10.15am**

**The Journey to Good Friday, a service for all ages**

followed by coffee, hot cross buns and craft activities

*Come into the peaceful atmosphere at church at any time from 12 noon to pray and be still on this holy day.*

**1.30pm Afternoon Service including Communion-**

Readings: First:	Martin Peacock	Isaiah 52: 13 – 53:12
Gospel:		John 19: 16b-37

**12th April, Easter Sunday**

**Easter Vigil – 5.30 am**

Readings: as set in service booklet

Gospel: Matthew 28: 1-10

**All Age Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Reading: Gospel: John 20: 1–18

Geoff Moore Intercessions

**19th April, Easter 2**

**Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings: First: Jean Merrington Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Second: Richard Gooding 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Gospel: John 20: 19–end

James Morgan Intercessions

**26th April, Easter 3**

**Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings: First: Carys Funnell Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Second:	Alison Moore	1 Peter1: 17-23
Gospel:		Luke 24: 13-35
	Amy Gooding	Intercessions

This service would be followed immediately by the ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***, but it may need to be postponed

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May, Easter 4**

### **Parish Eucharist – 10.15**

Readings: First:	Deborah Hodge	Acts 2: 42-end
Second:	Gillian Smellie	1 Peter 2: 19-end
Gospel:		John 10: 1-10
	Doris Dobson	Intercessions

**(Live readings and intercessions are being trialled remotely using the online facility ‘Zoom’)** If you are on the lists above and do not feel confident to use this technology, please feel able to swap in the usual way or contact Hester Higton for further assistance.

### **Flowers**

Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday
Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday
Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lynne Hastie
Apr 26 <sup>th</sup>	Meg Dewhirst
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hillary Moss

It would be advisable to contact Lynne Hastie or Jessie Brown if you are part of the rota. It is understood there may be problems acquiring flowers or other difficulties.

### **Church Cleaning**

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

***May:*** *Evelyn Aitken*, Jean Merrington, Anna Brooker.

**It will be important that cleaning teams keep a suitable distance from each other when they are in the church.**

## **Assistance in Brancepeth during Coronavirus**

*Recent developments in the predictions of the escalation of Coronavirus could perhaps leave some people in the village without help in the weeks to come for those without family or other local support.*

*The Parish Council working with the Brancepeth Community Association and Saint Brandon's church have put together the listing below of those, health permitting, who could help with shopping, picking up medicines, or other vital errands.*

*Coronavirus is predicted to run for a few months so if there are any others in the village that would be prepared to help in these circumstances let me know and I'll add you to the contact list in the next newsletter edition.*

*Thank you to those who have put themselves forward in these difficult times.*

*Dave Armstrong, Peter Aitken, Rev. Anna Brooker*

<i>Jessie Brown</i>	<i>0191 378 2748</i>	<i>Sheila Chapman</i>	<i>0191 378 4408</i>
<i>James Dalton</i>	<i>0191 378 0771</i>	<i>Jo Dalton</i>	<i>0191 378 0771</i>
<i>Dave Armstrong</i>	<i>07843 343846</i>	<i>Josie Armstrong</i>	<i>07882 233118</i>
<i>Geoff Harrison</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>	<i>Margot Harrison</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>
<i>Ian Stoker</i>	<i>0191 378 4986</i>	<i>Gillian Smellie</i>	<i>0191 373 9420</i>
<i>Vivienne Lowe</i>	<i>0191 378 0974</i>	<i>Deborah Hodge</i>	<i>01388 745455</i>
<i>Anna Brooker</i>	<i>0191 378 0578</i>	<i>Nick Brooker</i>	<i>0191 378 0578</i>
<i>Jayne Gardarsson</i>	<i>0191 378 1483</i>	<i>Jeanette Metcalfe</i>	<i>0191 3781646</i>
<i>Martyn Jones</i>	<i>0191 378 9297</i>	<i>Christine Jones</i>	<i>0191 378 9297</i>
<i>Peter Aitken</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>	<i>Evelyn Aitken</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>
<i>Hester Higton</i>	<i>0191 5974675</i>	<i>Mike Higton</i>	<i>0191 5974675</i>
<i>Amy Gooding</i>	<i>07753606115</i>	<i>Richard Gooding</i>	<i>0191 3869651</i>
<i>Carol Beeby</i>	<i>07592 975002</i>	<i>Caroline Middleditch</i>	<i>07729277072</i>
<i>Sue Morgan</i>	<i>0191 3781172</i>		

## **Bridget Higton (BH) interviewed by Sabine Heslop (SH)**

**SH:** What do you like about Brancepeth?

**BH:** It is great to have a castle in the village! Also, I like the community feeling. One of the best things, of course, is the Christmas Show!

**SH:** I heard you wrote the Nativity? And played an important part?

**BH:** Yes, I have been involved for several years now: I love acting!

**SH:** I know that you are having drama lessons with Martin Peacock. Do you aspire to become an actress?

**BH:** No! I would like to become a clinical psychologist.

**SH:** Interesting! Why?

**BH:** I have always been fascinated by psychology, and I would like to help people in a practical way.

**SH:** Great plan! So which subjects will you choose for your A-levels?

**BH:** Psychology, Sociology, Maths and German.

**SH:** Languages are always a good thing. Good of you to go for a more challenging one! What other hopes do you have?

**BH:** I would love to publish my poetry.

**SH:** Since when have you been writing poetry?

**BH:** I have been writing for my entire life, but only really started on poetry since I was fourteen.

**SH:** Wow! Any other aspirations?

**BH:** I'd like to get involved, make a difference. Currently I am doing the 'Growing Young Leaders' course with Durham Diocese.

**SH:** Tell me more about it.

**BH:** It is really fun! The course runs from September to April for young people in school years 10-13, and we are learning together through talks, discussions, games, and other interesting activities. We are exploring how we can grow on our leadership-skills, and build good teams. We have learned to take other people's opinions on board, and to listen properly. In our final session in April, we will get our certificates from Bishop Paul.

**SH:** Congratulations! That is the spirit which will indeed make a difference!

# Brancepeth Youth Club

March - April 2020

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. The remaining date for this term is:

April 5th

## Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

Jonny Dobson, Sabine Tenge-Heslop, Tom Hobbs and Alison Hobbs will also be helping to lead.

**Further information will be communicated to all involved at a later date.**



**Unfortunately due to the coronavirus situation there will be no Sunday School or Messy Church until further notice**

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY April 2020

You are invited to use this diary to share in the prayers offered daily in church  
'God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them

- 1 April Fools' Day Lord help us not to take ourselves too seriously
  - 2 Whitworth Lane and Black House
  - 3 Oakenshaw Road
  - 4 Quarry Hill and cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm and Goodwell Field
  - 5 PALM SUNDAY Pray for courage to profess our faith**
  - 6 HOLY WEEK Pray for all those will preach this week
  - 7 Give thanks for the return of spring and pray for good stewardship of the earth
  - 8 Station House and the Village North
  - 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY pray for true servant leadership**
  - 10 GOOD FRIDAY help us as we contemplate our Saviour's sacrifice**
  - 11 EASTER EVE pray for all those who have lost hope**
  - 12 EASTER DAY Give thanks with a grateful heart. Our Lord reigns!**
  - 13 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
  - 14 Goodwell Lea North
  - 15 Goodwell Lea South
  - 16 Spring Farm Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den
  - 17 For church members outside the parish
  - 18 Durham Road and The Forge
  - 19 EASTER 1 pray for our church leaders, for health and strength**
  - 20 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth
  - 21 EASTER DAY ALLELUIA CHRIST IS RISEN give thanks and rejoice**
  - 22 The Village South
  - 23 The Castle and Lodge
  - 24 Peppermires, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm,
  - 25 Pray for Youth Club, Sunday School and Messy Church
  - 26 EASTER 2 pray for our APCM today**
  - 27 Stockley Grove and Tanglewood
  - 28 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm
  - 29 Pray for the emergency services and the job they undertake
  - 30 Holywell and East Parks
- For May entries contact Myrleen Stewart 0191 378 0862**

Angela and Philip Lonsdale are excited to announce the arrival of their first grandchild Henry James Pratt born 6th March 2020 to proud parents Charlotte and James. A first great-grandchild to Annette Johnson. All are doing well!

## Thomas Campion and the Brancepeth Link

The name of Thomas Campion (1567-1620) may strike a chord with but few denizens of Brancepeth Village, but this archetypal renaissance man is linked to the locality through a publication of 1614 viz. *A description of a masque: presented in the Banqueting room at Whitehall, on St Stephen's night [26 December] last at the marriage of the Right Honourable the Earl of Somerset [Robert Carr]: and the Right Noble the Lady Frances Howard. Written by Thomas Campion. Whereunto are annexed diverse choice airs composed for this masque that may be sung with a single voice to the lute or bass-viol.*

James 1 gifted Brancepeth Castle to Robert Carr, one of his 'favourites', thus forging the link. In the above, however, 'written by Thomas Campion' refers to the *description* of the masque, for other composers were involved in its production, including Nicholas Lanier (1588-1666), the first holder of the post of 'Master of the King's Music'.

Sunday, 1 March 2020, was not only the first Sunday of Lent, but it also marked the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Campion, a poet, composer, writer on poetry, and a medical practitioner. Today he is best remembered for his lute-songs which he sometimes divided into two groups: 'divine and moral songs' and 'the dainty conceits of lovers'. Following liaison with Anna, it was agreed that one of Campion's songs of the former group, 'Never weather-beaten sail', be performed immediately after the eucharist on 1 March. Hester Higton kindly agreed to sing to my accompaniment on the lute, and did so beautifully; it was also agreed that the inspiring text of the song and a brief overview be included in the parish magazine.

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more;  
Than my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast.  
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.  
Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's high paradise,  
Cold age deafe not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes;  
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see;  
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.

Wilfred Foxe

### Notes

Masque: [A] genre of entertainment that developed in England during the 16th and 17th centuries around a masked dance. [These were normally based] on allegorical or mythological themes ... involving poetry, music and elaborate sets ..., Grove Music Online, accessed 03.03.2020.

# Village Hall Use & Bookings

**(This advice has been sent out by the chairman of the BCA but may change during the following month)**

As you know, advice on the issue of Coronavirus is constantly being updated – to operate within current guidelines (as at 17<sup>th</sup> Mar):

- We will not take any new bookings from non-members for use of the hall from today
- There will be no BCA organised events taking place
- From today, the hall will no longer be available for non-Sections / groups.
- Wednesday Coffee Morning & Cinema Club will cease from today until such time as it can restart
- BCA Sections (art group, badminton, snooker etc.) will be contacted individually to ask what they wish to do. For now, guidance does not restrict use of our building for very small groups (i.e. groups of less than 10) to continue to meet should they wish for exercise etc., If any of these Sections wishes, for now - and until such time as government advises otherwise - to continue to use the hall we will ask them to be very strict about general health guidelines in relation to the virus and we will also ask them when exiting the building to wipe any surfaces down (i.e. door handles) with cleaning fluid and disposable cloths which we will have readily available.

## **Garden Club.**

AGM. Postponed until further notice. Spring Show cancelled.

Walkabout Friday 3rd July. Stockley Grove. More details next month.

Annual Show Saturday 12th September.

Further events in later newsletters.

## **Churchyard Tidy-up!**

**April 4th - 10.00am onwards.**

Work continues to be done to maintain the churchyard and keep it looking as attractive as possible.

If you have a spare hour (or more) and could help, please talk to Edward Staines or James Morgan about what you might be able to do, or, just turn up.

An ideal outdoor activity during these difficult times!

## **Book Club**

The meeting at Rosemary and Mark Monument's home, 6 Goodwell Lea, on Friday 3rd April is going ahead at the time of publication. Mark will contact book club members if the situation changes.

The book to read is, 'Emma', by Jane Austen. There have been so many recent adaptations of this much loved classic we thought it would be fun to rediscover the original.

The following meeting is arranged for the 8th May at Sue Morgan's home and the book to read is 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. Further information next month.

While we are all in various states of self- isolation at least we can still take pleasure in reading!

Val Gibbons.

## **Parish Council Update**

The Parish Council continue to meet on a monthly basis. From the Parish Councils initiative you will have noticed the start of work by the County Council along the A690 with the verge being cleared back. This has opened up the visibility of the speed signs. More is to come dealing with the overhanging trees in the Willington direction and the seeding of the verges with wild flowers.

We have been updated on the proposed parking arrangements for future Castle Craft Fairs to reduce the risk of the traffic problems at the last event in November. The Castle are intending advising residents of their proposals.

The next Parish Council meeting due to Easter has been brought forward to the first Monday of April, the 6<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend with a 7:30pm start in the Village Hall

## **Harrogate Flower Show**

Unfortunately this is not possible this year. Quite a few regulars were unable to come this year but I will be happy to organise this next year.

Allee Longstaff

## Dates for the diary

Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Snooker Club
Apr	Not meeting at present	Monday	Yoga
Apr	Not meeting at present	Monday	PiYo
Apr	14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup> (summer times -2pm – 4pm)	Tuesday	Knit & Natter
Apr	Not meeting at present	Tuesday	Choir
Apr	Not meeting at present	Wed	Tai Chi Exercise Club
Apr	Not meeting at present	Wed	Coffee Morning
Apr	1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Art Class
Apr	2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Badminton
Apr	5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Youth Club

All on going events subject to further information

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

Apr	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Men's Social Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall – <i>postponed</i>
Apr	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	<b>Churchyard Tidy-Up Day, 10.00am or turn up when you can.</b>
Apr	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	<b>Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall</b>
Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	Garden Club AGM & Spring Show, 7.30pm Village Hall- <i>postponed /cancelled</i>
Apr	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thurs	Harrogate Spring Flower Show Trip, Ladies Club - <i>cancelled</i>
May	10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Village Event-75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day - <i>postponed</i>
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Progressive Supper - <i>postponed</i>
July	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	<b>Durham Singers, Summer Concert, 7.30pm, Church</b>

**Village Hall:** please contact Geraldine Jennings –  
[gerryjennings5@googlemail.com](mailto:gerryjennings5@googlemail.com) or tel. 3781583

Front cover ©Elizabeth Metcalfe- *Daffodils in the churchyard*

Inside front cover © Alison Hobbs

- *World Day of Prayer, 6th March, which this year came from Zimbabwe. About 40 attended, Jean led the music and 13 representatives from the churches in DH7 joined together to lead it. the theme of the service was ' Take you mat, and Walk', so laid on the altar was a sisal mat, the bible opened at the reading, food and handcrafts from Zimbabwe, and a red, white and yellow candles representing Hope, Peace and Reconciliation, based on the colours of the Zimbabwean flag, hanging below.*
- *Messy Church volunteers out litter picking on the railway line.*

Back cover © Peter Hodge – *The Wednesday Art Group*

Inside back cover © Peter Aitken – *Race Night at the Village Hall*

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

**May newsletter entries no later than 15<sup>th</sup> April**

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

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

Peter Aitken	<i>Chairman</i>	Ian Stoker	
Martyn Jones	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Choir &amp; Church</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary (&amp; Website)</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings &amp; Garden Club</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Subscription, Wednesday</i>
Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>		<i>Coffee &amp; Cinema Club</i>

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

### **Parish Activities**

Chairman B.C.A.	Peter Aitken, The Copse, Foxes Row (3789908)
Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
Treasurer	Margot Harrison, Downsgarth (3784813)
Membership	Joan Taylor, 5 The Village (3783630)
Hall Bookings	Geraldine Jennings, 6 Goodwell Lea (3781583)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Badminton	Peter Hodge, (01388 745455)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club	Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess 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	Dave Armstrong – chair (07843 343846)
	James Dalton – vice chair (3780771)
	Christine Jones (3789297)
	Jessie Brown (3782748)
	Michael Lowe (3780974)
	Sheila Chapman (3784408)
	Ian Stoker (3784986)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346
<b>County Councillors:</b>	<a href="mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk">olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk">fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk</a>

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



Race Night at the Village Hall

