

St Brandon's Church

Brancepeth



Newsletter: February 2021

Also online at: www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

'...YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' THE SECOND IS THIS, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.' THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE."

LENT 2021

RACIAL JUSTICE

BISHOP PAUL INVITES YOU TO

THE DURHAM DIOCESAN LENT COURSE

&

COMPLIMENTARY ONLINE REFLECTIONS &
DISCUSSIONS

WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOUR?

HOW DO WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR AS OUR SELF?

DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP, PREACHING, BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Save the Dates!

Thursday 18th February 7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 25th February 7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 4th March 7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 11th March 7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 18th March 7pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 25th March 7pm - 8.30pm

Diocesan Lent Course - Coming Soon!

Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.uk or anna.brooker@durham.ac.uk
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (3735674)
Church Wardens:	Hester Higton (5974675) James Morgan (4476520)
Secretary	Carol Beeby (3847431), (07592 975002)
Treasurer	Mike Higton (5974675)
Deanery Synod	Caroline Middleditch (378 1400)

Other members:-

Amy Gooding (07753606115) Janette Foxe (07587 225 200).
Tom Hobbs (07857437860) Sue Morgan (3781172)
Jean Hodgson (3780289) Robert Scott-Biggs (3735907).
Steve Hodgson (3780289)

Prayer Team	Amy Gooding (07753606115), Alison Hobbs (378 9670), Deborah Hodge (01388 745455), Sue Hope, Alison Moore (373 5674), Myrleen Stewart (378 0862).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Rev'd Anna Brooker
Organist	Richard Hird
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (3847431), Valeria Dietz, Lucy Hodge (07891867181).
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (3735674)
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (3780858)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674), Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Richard Gooding, Hester Higton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan.
SMD Team:	Evelyn Aitken, Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Carys Funnell, Richard Gooding, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Tom Hobbs, Martin Peacock, Sally Scott-Biggs.
Fabric:	James Morgan (chair), Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Robert Scott-Biggs, Edward Staines.
Website	www.stbrandon.org.uk

February Newsletter entries – no later than **January 18th**

Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Again! While I am writing this, the outside world is slowly covered by a white blanket, mercifully spreading over the greys and browns of the wintery gloom. The restless mind pauses for a while to gaze on a quietened world; the heart fills with awe and gratitude. A crisp, white winter morning sends the message that this world can be transformed and made clean.

Alas, it is not to last: while car tyres carve ugly lines, and shovels clear away the dangerous obstacle, the world returns swiftly to its normal busy state. Nothing is forever. Echoing Geoff's encouraging words of the January newsletter, I am, too, humming a Carol as a little mantra to help me through the dark times. "In the Bleak Midwinter...." This is probably one of the bleakest midwinters of our generation, and yet, amidst the hostility of a dangerous and difficult world, there is a mother, cradling her new born. Hope.

Walking the wide, white fields of virgin snow, it is not hard to imagine angels thronging the air – a white fluffy purity is swirling around, and it is as if a song of praise is raising to heaven. What can I give Him? I am small and powerless in the vast expanse, and yet, there is what He has granted: life; so there is one thing I can give Him: my heart.

Easy? Yes and no. While the heart seems to expand and overflow in the whiteout, it seems so straightforward to serve and love, but the demands of the world bring it all down with a thud. How can I love my annoying neighbour? How can I serve this endlessly struggling world? How can I keep up the message of hope? I alone cannot. But we are together, as families, as villagers, as people – physically separated by the current rules, and yet closer than ever, thinking more about one another, helping, supporting, and praying. Amazing.

It has been a privilege for me to be in Brancepeth, and I am immensely grateful for your friendship and support. You gave me a vision of what a well-functioning and hopeful community can look like. Be proud of what you have achieved, and keep it going as an example for others! I think Brancepeth has a mission to the wider world.

While a fierce, warm wind of change is melting the snow, snowdrops and crocuses are pushing their leaves through the brown earth, and an intrepid aconite dares to bloom. Change is the lifeblood of creation – let's embrace it, and do our part!

With best wishes for this lovely community,

Sabine

St Brandon's February 2021– Services and readings

At present, Sunday morning services are all online

Online service invitations are sent via NAVIGATOR, St Brandon's email link.

Please phone or email for further details

In addition to the services below, each day Monday – Friday,

Morning Prayer is shared online at 8.15am

and there is a Midday Eucharist from Brancepeth Castle at 12noon.

Feb 4th Thursday Evening Prayer 7.30pm

Feb 7th 2 before Lent Morning Worship 10.15

Church Action on Poverty focus

First:	Wilfred Foxe	Amos 5: 21-24
Gospel:	Anne Allen	Acts 22: 22-29
	Geoff Moore	Intercessions
Psalm 10		

Feb 14th next before Lent Parish Eucharist 10.15am

First:	Ken Howe	2 Kings 2:1-12
Gospel	Caroline Middleditch	Mark 9: 2-9
	David Eltringham	Intercessions
Psalm 50: 1-6		

Feb 17th Ash Wednesday Eucharist 7:30pm

First:	Amy Gooding	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel:	David Eltringham	John 8:1-11
Dismissal gospel		Luke 15:4-7

Feb 21st Lent 1 Parish Eucharist 10.15am

First:	Jayne Cook	Genesis 9: 8-17
Gospel:	Martin Peacock	Mark 1: 9-15
	Alison Moore	Intercessions
Psalm 25: 1-9		

Messy Church 4.00pm – via Zoom

Feb 28th Lent 2 Parish Eucharist 10.15am
 First: Jean Hodgson Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
 Gospel: Nick Brooker Mark 8: 31-end
 Edward Staines Intercessions
 Psalm 22: 23-31

March 7th Lent 3 Parish Eucharist 10.15am
 First: Richard Gooding Exodus 20: 1-17
 Gospel: Alison Moore John 2:13-22
 Sally Scott-Biggs Intercessions
 Psalm 19

Flowers

Feb 7th Jean Hodgson
 Feb 14th Lynne Hastie
 Feb 21st 1st Lent
 Feb 28th 2nd Lent
 Mar 7th 3rd Lent

LENT GROUPS 2021

Daytime:

**the DH7 Lent Course 2021 is ‘Caring for Creation’
 meeting via Zoom on Fridays 2.00pm
 26th February, 05th, 12th, 19th and 26th March.**



Evenings:

**The Diocesan Lent Course, *RACIAL JUSTICE*, online discussion and reflections
 Thursdays 7.00- 8.30pm 18th February – 25th March**

There may also be a St Brandon’s small group meeting to follow the Racial Justice theme.

Further details and timing to be notified via Navigator. Please speak to Anna or Alison Hobbs if you are interested in any of these groups.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY February 2021

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

We pray for:

- 1 Woolley Grange, High Woolley, Weather Hill, South Brandon farm, Springwell farm and Brawn's Den
- 2 Give thanks for our wipe-down team who enable the church to remain open
- 3 Pray for our government that they may lead with wisdom and integrity
- 4 Pray for those who long for a chat over a cup of tea
- 5 Goodwell Lea
- 6 Pray for those who will lead worship and preach this month.
- 7 Sunday – Give thanks for the technological skills and provision we enjoy**
- 8 The Bothy, Park Lodge, Nursery House, Garden House and the Golf Club
- 9 Pray for all involved in progressing the vaccination programme
- 10 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
- 11 Pray for families who are experiencing tension
- 12 Durham Road and The Forge
- 13 Littlewhite Farm, Morley Farm, Quarry Hill, the cottages, and Goodwell Field
- 14 St Valentine's Day: Pray for those betrothed, and healing for those betrayed**
- 15 Thomas Bray, 1730, founder of USPG & SPCK: pray for the Cathedral bookshop
- 16 Whitworth Lane and Black House
- 17 **Ash Wednesday:** may we know ourselves to be marked with the cross, today.
- 18 Pray the Lent groups will start well, and for our own commitment to Lent learning
- 19 Scripton, Peppermires, Nafferton, Tudhoe Lodge, Holywell, East Parks area
- 20 Oakenshaw Rd
- 21 1st Sunday of Lent: Give us the discipline and heart to follow you anew in Lent**
- 22 Rectory, Thornberry Garth, Hoppy Acres, Rectory Cottages, Constable Meadows, and Bridleway
- 23 Pray for those who are exhausted or despondent
- 24 The Village South, Castle and Lodge
- 25 For 'Caring for Creation' (DH7), & Racial Justice (Durham Diocese) Lent Courses
- 26 The Village North, Station House and Railway cottages
- 27 George Herbert, Priest, poet, 1633. Give thanks for hymns & poems that help prayer
- 28 2nd Sunday of Lent: pray for Stockley Grove, Bridge Road and Tanglewood**

*If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison Moore
durmoores@btinternet.com*

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

Please tell Alison Moore of the Prayer Team 0191 373 5674/07890 733757.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please text to this dedicated number: 07598 600571 and your prayer requests will be included in our regular Friday morning service. Normally we would have been inviting you to leave a prayer on the altar, so this is the safe alternative!

**Brancepeth Youth Club
February – March 2021**

We'll continue to meet weekly by Zoom, 6.00-7.30pm on Sunday evenings, starting on 10th January.

If you haven't yet joined one of the Zoom meetings and would like to, then please phone or email Geoff for details.

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 first meeting on 10th January will be our traditional New Year Party! The theme this year is the letter 'F', and we plan to have games matched to the theme. Food (provide your own, I'm afraid) and costumes related to theme would also be appreciated!

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

Sunday School

'Don't forget!

**Sunday School meets every week in the Neville Chapel when we meet in church
(with suitable Covid Safe measures in Place)**



Messy Church online 4pm Sunday 21st February

The session will be held via Zoom and advertised in the Navigator and on the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons/>

Details will be sent by email to regular attenders

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' on zoom



Tuesdays 9 & 23 Feb 2020 at 11:00
Tuesdays 9 & 23 March 2021 at 11:00

For more information, and the zoom link, please email alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk

Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

Great North Air Ambulance Services

Thank you to everyone who brought items for collection. There were 22bags/boxes so the charity was very appreciative. I have decided to arrange another one for Wednesday 17th Feb. so I will need donations any time from Sat. 13th until Tues. 16th. I have GNAAS bags if anyone needs them. Please only include the following:-

Clothing, handbags, belts, pairs of shoes, towels, curtains, sheets and pillowcases

(Separate bag....books)

Allee Longstaff - 3780707

THANK YOU SABINE

Sabine came to St Brandon's in October 2019 to complete her curacy, that is her period of training in ministry. She has now been 'signed off' from this by the Bishop so will be moving on to a different parish: not yet decided.



It has been a huge gift to have Sabine here in Brancepeth, not only in Sunday services and through her preaching, but also in Messy Church, Youth Club, Brancepeth Alive and the Thursday evening Prayer group.

We will have a chance to say Thank You and goodbye to Sabine in the morning service on Sunday 7th February, so please do come along. If you'd like to contribute to a gift for her, please contact Alison Moore or Alison Hobbs.

Thank you Sabine, we wish you every blessing in your future ministry.

Golden Wedding thank you

Kath and Bill Currie would like to thank everyone for their cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Who would have thought 50 years ago it would have been like this!! Thank you for making it a special occasion. Kath and Bill

A thank you from Isabel Wray

Isabel Wray would like to thank the St Brandon's congregation for their kind thoughts and prayers during her recent stay in hospital. The eye operation went really well and has made a huge difference to her eye sight. Your support has been very much appreciated.

Isabel.



BRANCEPETH ARCHIVES AND HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

This is to give notice that, due to the Covid-19 regulations, it is not possible at the moment to hold an AGM at which everyone can be present. However, the Committee feel it is important that members receive as much information as possible about the workings of the group over the past year.

The Committee is therefore proposing that the following documents be circulated to all members by e-mail for those with online access and delivery of hard copies to other members: - A report from the Chairman (Geoff Harrison), Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 and report from the Treasurer (Dave Armstrong). Geoff and Dave will be happy to try to answer any queries/questions about the reports.

It is then proposed that an AGM be arranged as soon as regulations permit such meetings. This will provide a very welcome opportunity for us all to meet together again, to update members in person, discuss and make any important decisions and enjoy a sociable evening as well.

As it has not been possible to offer members any activities or events this year, 2020 membership will be extended to cover the year 2021.

ST Brandon's Food Bank Yellow Bin

While the church is not open for Sunday services the regular donations to the local food bank via our Yellow Bin are not as easy. Please do not forget the people who rely on our generosity and if you drop into church for silent prayer or you are passing with your dog, a donation to the food bank would be greatly valued. Long life milk and fruit juice are especially welcome. Thank you.



Brancepeth Leisure and Allotment Gardeners' Club

At this time of year we are preparing for the 2021 growing season and reviewing plots.

Some people may feel they would like more space and others may want a little less or be unable to continue digging.

If there are any changes to your requirements or you are interested in taking on an allotment for the first time please get in touch with a member of the committee by mid February baacommittee3@gmail.com (details on the back page of newsletter). Plot changes will be made at the end of February.

Arrangements for the AGM will be dependent on how the Covid restrictions develop, there will be more information next month.

New members are very welcome.

Carole Reed (Secretary)

Parish Council update

Working within the current restrictions the Parish Council continue to meet and progress work for the village. Items of note from the January meeting include;

Many in the village who have served on the Council will know our long standing clerk Geoff Smith. He has been unwell for some time but after a spell in hospital leading up to Christmas is now gradually recovering and keeping safe from covid complications. We have engaged a temporary clerk David Rider who has stood in for Geoff in the past and we are advertising for a new substantive clerk as Geoff has decided to retire and resign from the Council.

The precept. The Parish Council have decided to hold the precept at the previous value, there being no pressing need to either increase nor decrease it. The contribution from each household remains the same.

Road safety remains our primary concern and we are seeking to reinstate the speed watch when covid restrictions allow and the lighter mornings return, perhaps in March or April. In addition we intend to improve the speed signage on

Wolsingham Road, including a white gate like the A690, to discourage excessive speed approaching the village.

As tenants of the field we have to maintain it and cut the grass. Our current contract for this expires in April and we are going out to tender to continue this and facilitate the field activities we are anticipating. This contract also covers mowing some of the verges around the village.

We are grateful to those around the village who already tidy and maintain their frontages. There's a proposal to build on this and undertake a village tidy day at some point when restrictions lift.

The Parish Council see it as part of their role to support village activities such as the allotments. However we have given notice to the Allotment tenants that the rents, that are low and have remained static for many years, are to be raised by a modest amount. Part of our responsibility in the Allotments and on the field is the safety and health of the trees. A survey of these is nearing conclusion and some have noticed blue splodges applied to some trees. This is not an indicator of any future action but was a marker used by the inspector to show those that he had covered. A full report will be available soon and no doubt some remedial action will be needed.

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday February 15th at 7:30pm. All residents are welcome to attend what will be a virtual on-line meeting. Dial in details are available through the clerk via our website.

Dave Armstrong (chair)

Dates for the Diary:-

Feb	19th Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Zoom.
Feb	21st Sun	Messy Church, 4.00pm, Zoom

Photos

Front cover ©Hester Higton – The road to church during the snow.

Inside front cover – Durham Diocese Lent poster

Back cover - ©Sue Morgan – Mallards on the frozen pond at Peppermires

Inside back cover – © Durham Diocese General Forum – NHS Appeal

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

February newsletter entries no later than 18th January

Please send to Sue Morgan at 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 & Church</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary (& Website)</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings & Garden Club</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Subscription, Wednesday</i>
Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>		<i>Coffee & Cinema Club</i>
Anna Brooker	<i>Church Representative</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)
	Sheila Chapman (3784408)
	Ian Stoker (3784986)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346
County Councillors:	olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk
	fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org

Gilesgate Covid19 Support Group

URGENT APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF



Toiletries for Hospital Patients in County Durham

Due to an increased demand for their services, local hospitals are in immediate need of toiletries for patients at this difficult time

PLEASE HELP OUR NHS BY
DONATING:

Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Shower Gel
Shampoo
Combs/Brushes
Shaving Cream
Razors
Flannels

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING COLLECTION POINTS TO
DONATE YOUR ITEMS:

St Cuthbert's Catholic Church
(Contact Father Downie - 01913843442)

Sainsbury's Broomside, Cheveley Park, Belmont

Sainsbury's Gilesgate, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate



**YOUR NHS
NEEDS YOU**

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT:

Christine Fletcher
07812019189
gilesgatewellbeing@gmail.com

Sandra
Culture Healing Communities
07531255230
culturehealingcommunities@outlook.com

Please do not go to
the hospitals to
avoid contagion
Use the collection
points.

A donations box will be placed at the back of church beside the food bank yellow bin. If you would prefer to leave your donations there it will be taken to the drop off point for you.

Any queries please contact Sue Morgan.

