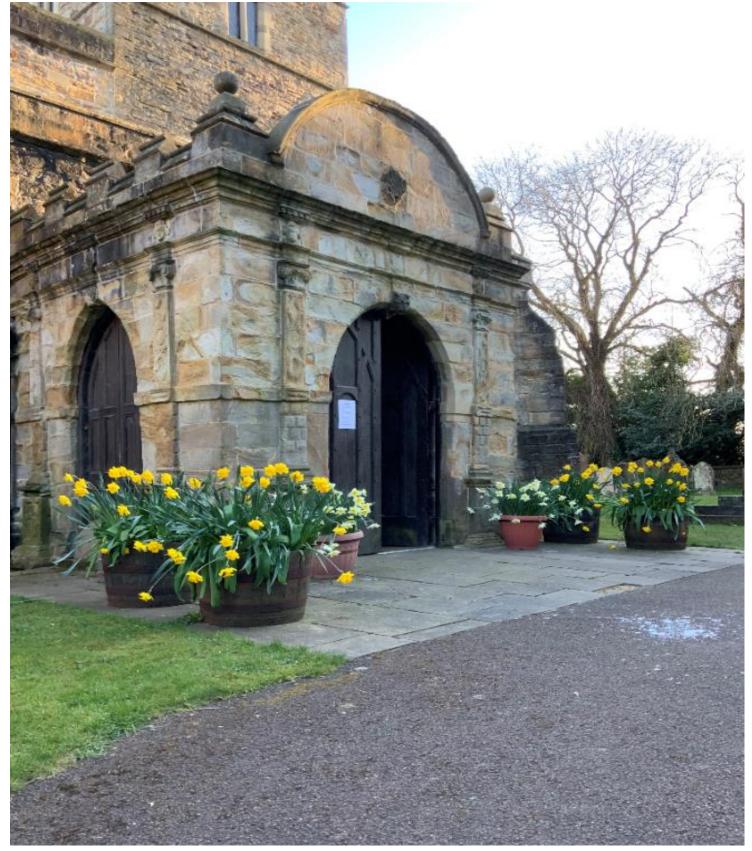
ST BRANDON'S CHURCH

BRANCEPETH



Newsletter: May 2021

ALSO ONLINE AT WWW.STBRANDON.ORG.UK/NEWSLETTER









Easter images from Messy Church

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

June Newsletter entries – no later than May 18th

Please send to Sue Morgan - <u>sueatpeppermires@gmail.com</u>

By the time you read this one of us in our house will have celebrated two birthdays in lockdown. Not so for the other, who had an excellent restaurant meal and a night away last year and is on course for the same again in 2021. Where's the justice in that? And, as I am the one complaining, you can guess which of us I am. But the good news is that my kind friend said birthdays in lockdown don't count, so I'm actually two years younger than I thought!

Someone once said that celebration and laughter are two of the richest gifts in life. Putting aside laughter for another day, why does celebration matter?

Why do we need to do this? Why do we need to celebrate? Why do we recognise that some days are more special and need to be marked out? What is celebration for? To celebrate means to stop and reflect, to commemorate, to remember, to acknowledge, to honour. And usually it is something that we try to do with others, with family and friends: with others who matter in our lives.

I wonder what you have been celebrating. As I write this, people are celebrating the green shoots of the end of lockdown. Celebrating being able to meet up with family and with friends, even if it can only be outside. And, as the trees start to turn green and we see colours popping up in our gardens and on the byways, we are celebrating the arrival of spring.

Celebration has always been an important part of the Christian tradition. Two thousand years ago Jesus celebrated what we now call the Last Supper with his friends. He knew he was on a course that would lead to his death but he shared a meal and broke bread and drank wine with his friends. He asked them to do this regularly in order to remember him. Two thousand years later we still meet together as Christ's body to share bread and wine together as we celebrate the Eucharist.

Just as my birthdays have had to be different it hasn't stopped them happening. I haven't stopped getting older. I haven't stopped having birthdays. It hasn't stopped them being celebrations. They have just been different. I have discovered that a takeaway and a glass of champagne at my kitchen table can be special. I discovered that being in lockdown meant more people than usual got in touch and I have been especially touched by that.

So with our church celebrations. They haven't stopped. They too have also just been different. We haven't been able to meet in our beautiful church and to share bread and wine together. Like many others, I have been grateful for the technology and for those who know how to use it that has still allowed us to still 'get together' and to celebrate that Last Supper each week, even if I have had to do that from my own home. And sometimes those differences give us time and opportunity to grow and reflect and to learn something new and meaningful.

So, I believe celebrations do matter. Whatever you are celebrating, however you are doing it and whoever keeps you company as you do it, keep on celebrating. Don't give up. It's what makes our lives as human beings so special.

St Brandon's May 2021 – Services and readings

All Sunday services are now 'blended.'

You can come to church or join in via Zoom.

In all cases, everyone is welcome and children's activities are provided.

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.

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

Please phone or email for further details

May 2nd, Easter 5 Morning Worship: service of the word

led by members of the Youth Club

Readings: First: 1 John 4: 7-21

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Psalm 96

Intercessions

May 9th Easter 6 Parish Eucharist 10.15am with Christian Aid focus

First: Anne Allen Acts 10: 44-end Gospel: Ken Howe John 15: 9-17

Psalm 98

Doris Dobson Intercessions

Thursday 13th Ascension Day Eucharist 7.30pm on line only via Zoom

First: Caroline Middleditch Daniel 7: 9-14
Gospel: David Eltringham Luke 24: 44-53

May 16th Easter 7 Parish Eucharist for St Brandon's Day 10.15am

First: Carys Funnell Acts 1:15-17, 21-end

Gospel: Martin Peacock John 17: 6-19

Geoff Moore Intercessions

Messy Church via Zoom 4pm

May 23rd Pentecost Parish Eucharist 10.15am

First: Amy Gooding Acts 2: 1-21

Gospel: Jean Hodgson John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b- 15

Psalm 104: 26-36a, 37

Caroline Middleditch Intercessions

May 30th Trinity Parish Eucharist 10.15am

First: Nick Brooker Romans 8: 12-17

Gospel: Richard Gooding John 3: 1-17

Psalm 29

James Morgan Intercessions

June 6th Trinity 1 Parish Eucharist – 10.15am

Readings: First: Jayne Cook Genesis 3: 8-15

Gospel: Alison Moore Mark 3: 20-35

Psalm 130

Amy Gooding Intercessions

<u>Sidespersons</u>

May 2nd Nick Brooker & Joan Nesbitt

May 9th Jayne & Peter Cook

May 16th Sue Morgan & Caroline Middleditch

May 23rd Fiona & David Eltringham

May 30th Bonny Bainbridge & Jane Stout

Jun 6th Nick Brooker & Joan Nesbitt

Flowers

May 2nd Hillary Moss

May 9th Lynne Hastie

May 16th Nick Brooker

May 23rd Jean Hodgson

May 30th Joan Taylor

Jun 6th Iris Waggott

St. Brandon's Church - Grass Cutting Rota May - June

- 1st May Martin Peacock, Michael Lowe, Edward Staines

2nd – 15th May James Morgan, David Wilkes

16th – **29th May** James Dalton, Nick Brooker

30th **May – 12**th **June** Stephen Hodgson, Geoff Harrison

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY - May 2021

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

1 Philip and James, apostles 'May we follow their steps and walk steadfastly in the Way'

2 Easter 5 'If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation'

- 3 Oakenshaw Road
- 4 Pray for safety in the country as we continue to emerge from Covid lockdown
- 5 Wooley Grange, Springwell Farm, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den
- 6 Goodwell Lea
- 7 Quarry Hill and cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm and Goodwell Field
- 8 Julian of Norwich 1417 Give thanks for people who dedicate their lives to prayer for the world

9 Easter 6 'Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!'

- 10 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth
- 11 Pray for Bridge Road and Tanglewood
- 12 Whitworth Lane and Black House
- 13 Ascension Day 'May we in heart and mind also ascend'
- 14 Matthias the apostle, (chosen to make the disciples up to 12 in Judas' place). Give thanks for people who step in to help and support where it's needed
- 15 The Castle and Lodge

16 Easter 7 'In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself'

- 17 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
- 18 Durham Road and the Forge
- 19 Pray for those who are experiencing abuse in places where they should be safe
- 20 Pray for those who are working to reduce abuse and bring perpetrators to justice
- 21 Village North, Station House and Cottages
- 22 The Village South

23 Pentecost 'Pour out your Spirit on us today'

- 24 John and Charles Wesley Pray for Methodists you know, for inspiration and love
- 25 Venerable Bede 735 Pray for wisdom for historians and others who describe and interpret events
- 26 Augustine, 1st Archbishop of Canterbury 605 Pray for Justin Welby, that he can listen and act in the wisdom of God

- 27 Peppermires, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm, Holywell and East Parks
- 28 Stockley Grove
- 29 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scripton Lodge, Scripton Farm

30 Trinity Sunday May we know God more nearly as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer

31 On this Bank Holiday, give thanks for refreshment and re-connection with others If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison Moore, durmoores@btinternet.com



We are meeting, every Sunday in May, to listen to a story and make something relating to the story.

Initially we join the morning service at 10.15 before going into the Neville Chapel and return to the service during Communion.

Covid guidelines followed.



Messy Church online 4pm Sunday 16th May

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





Two of the Easter Gardens made by Zachary and Anna at Messy Church

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!

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'

in the Castle Chapel and/or on zoom as Covid regulations permit.

Tuesdays 11 & 25 May 2021 at 11:00

For more information, and the zoom link,

please email alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk

Brancepeth Youth Club May - July 2021

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

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

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

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10 - 16 May 2021

CA Week 2021 is 10-16 May and we will do the usual house to house collection around the parish, asking for volunteer collectors. Bundles of envelopes and collectors' badges can be picked up in church on Sunday 9 May.

Visitors to church can take an envelope and post it in the donations box, and there will be a collecting box also.

YOU CAN ALSO GIVE:

Online at: www.christianaid.org.uk

By phone: 020 7523 2269

Direct to the Christian Aid bank account: 020 7523 2226 for details

By direct debit: 020 7523 2046

For more information call Anna Brooker (3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.uk

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

At its September 2020 meeting, the PCC decided to establish a Climate Action Group, as a sub-committee of the Fabric and Finance Committee. An invitation to join the group was made via the Newsletter, and the resulting membership is Liam Dietz, Richard Hird, Caroline Middleditch, Geoff Moore, James Morgan and George Rae.

We have focused on two key actions. The first was to sign up to the <u>A Rocha Eco Church</u> scheme, which then involved completing an extensive survey under five headings: Worship & Teaching; Buildings; Land; Community & Global Engagement; Lifestyle. Having done this, we were eligible for the initial Bronze level of award. A plaque representing this will be put up in Church in due course, and our website now carries the following logo:



We have now reviewed the remainder of the survey where we didn't score so well, and have identified a number of areas where we can make progress. For example, the PCC has agreed that we will move on to a green electricity tariff later this year, once our current contract ends. Another is to encourage car-sharing in general, and specifically when coming to church (recognising that this will be limited currently due to the pandemic). Or why not walk or cycle to church where that's possible? We're going to look at installing cycle racks both for church members and community use.

The second key action was to have an initial environmental survey of the Church, undertaken for us free of charge by Renewable Energy Network, a company with which George Rae is associated. While considering what actions might be appropriate from this, an opportunity arose to engage with a research project on the decarbonisation of churches being run by the Durham Energy Institute, part of Durham University, in association with the Church of England. The Renewable Energy Network is also part of this project, as is the Cathedral, St Nicholas in the Market Place, and St. John's Neville's Cross. The PCC has agreed to our involvement, and while this will likely delay actions until 2022 (when the research project will be complete), it was felt that the more extensive survey and options available to us, and the opportunity to contribute to the Church of England's 'net-zero by 2030' commitment, that would arise from the project, were well worth the delay.

Finally, we are planning to hold a Climate Sunday service in the autumn, joining other churches around the country in doing this in the run up to the COP26 meeting taking place in Glasgow in November. We're also planning to make this a 'Climate Weekend' with other practical activities. Watch this space!

If you'd like to know more, or have suggestions, or would like to get involved, please get in touch.

Geoff Moore



Brancepeth Community Association (BCA) Notice of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 30th June 2021, 7:30pm Village Hall

Our next AGM will take place on the above date. To receive:

- Annual Financial Accounts
- Election of officers of the BCA (for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Social Secretary).

Any resolutions to be with the Secretary (Jo Dalton: brancepethca@gmail.com) one week beforehand. All members are very welcome to attend. Several committee members are stepping down this year, having kindly served for many years. As usual, nominations for the BCA management committee will be accepted up to the start of the meeting.

NB: If social distancing rules are still in force at that time, the meeting will take place online (open to all members using a link posted on the BCA website).

Update Annual Subs & Village Hall Reopening Date:

Following our last update in January, membership subscriptions for 2020 will be further extended to the end of June 2021 – covering a period of 18 months. Thereafter, from July 2021, we hope that you will renew your annual membership - at the same membership subscription fee that has been held in place for 12 years.

The four-step roadmap of dates to ease lockdown restrictions announced by Government in late February will enable the Village Hall to reopen **from 17**th **May** (step 3 in their roadmap, subject to change) for **many of the regular user groups and activities**. Social distancing rules will still need to apply at that time. From the **21**st **June** (step 4) social distancing rules are expected to be removed and all types of activities and functions can resume. We will provide further information in due course.

Whilst the hall is closed, we continue to use the opportunity to progress repairs and works on the building (including recently installed stage lighting) and look forward to reopening the doors to everyone.

Peter Aitken, BCA Chairman

The Children's Society Boxes

I am now opening the boxes again so if you have one please would you contact me re collection or drop it off at our house. Thank you.

Fiona Eltringham **01388 746058**

Friends of Brancepeth Cricket Field

Did you know that we are setting up a Village group to develop the Brancepeth Cricket Field as an asset for our community now and hopefully for many years to come?

The use of the area during the lockdowns has been phenomenal with many arranged summer activities, children playing their informal games of football, cricket and rounders, the dog walkers exercising their pets and those who simply sat on the bench watching the clouds drift by.

The group wants to do lots more, however, especially working with the Parish Council and other groups to ensure our historic Cricket Field is used by the villagers both now and in the future.

For example, we want to celebrate the end of Covid restrictions by holding two events on the field. First, on Monday 21 June 2021, on midsummer's day from 4 pm onwards, we shall hold a PICNIC ON THE FIELD, when you can bring a bottle(s) and food and stay for as long as the weather permits. During this event, we shall maintain a moment's silence to remember those we have lost, followed by a minute's applause to thank all those who helped us through.

Second, on Saturday 26 June we will organise FUN IN THE FIELD, another family event with a Cake Stall, Games and Music. More details to come shortly.

If you'd like to take part in these events, please just turn up, but also email one of the organisers below with your name and contact details (email and postal address, plus telephone number) which will only be used for this purpose. Also, why not come and join us as a Friend of the Field to help us extend the use of the field as an asset for the whole village.

Frank Coffield (Chair): f.coffield@ucl.ac.uk

Sheena Murray (Secy): sheenamurray@icloud.com

Arnab Basu: be arnab@ymail.com

Mary Coffield: mary.coffield@googlemail.com Mark Monument: mwmonument@gmail.com

GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club's AGM will be at the village hall 7.30pm on Friday 25 June. The business part of the evening is to receive the financial accounts and a statement from the Chairman. Then to elect the committee and officers. As is traditional for Garden Club AGMs, this will be followed by a light buffet and refreshments.

J. B. Dickinson.

KNIT AND NATTER.

Small groups - socially distanced - can use the village hall from 17 May. Knit and Natter is just such a group, so will re-commence on Tuesday 25 May 2 pm to 4 pm.

Evelyn Aitken

Book Club

Our next date is May 28th when the book will be 'American Dirt' by Jeanine Cummins. All welcome on Zoom when we hope Val Gibbons will be well enough to host again!

Parish Council Update

Extraordinary meeting 6th April

At the meeting the Parish Council voted unanimously to take up the offered lease from Castle Estates. This is being enacted via our solicitors.

Ordinary meeting 15th April

This was the final meeting of this council who are now all obliged to stand down at the end of their term. None have decided to seek a further term in the next council being formed in May. Three new councillors have been elected unopposed; Mary Coffield, Hassall Balsham and Nick Ellis. The current council are passing on summaries of all the current work projects with relevant contact details etc.

I wish to thank the outgoing Parish Councillors who, often with external challenge and through difficult times, have willingly given their time and worked with integrity for the benefit of the village.

D. Armstrong (BPC chair)

Parish Council News

In a bid to enhance communications with our residents, we have developed a new parish council website and have installed a brand-new noticeboard on the grass verge on Wolsingham Road.

Thanks to a grant of £1,000 from Durham County Council's neighbourhood budget, the noticeboard will be a useful information point for our local community, keeping residents up to date with village news and activities. The parish council felt the notice board was needed to discourage notices being pinned on trees as many of the nails and drawing pins rust over time and are difficult to remove which is damaging for the environment.

The new parish council website is almost completed. It has a whole new look, is user friendly, easy to navigate and is compliant regarding current government accessibility criteria. It will signpost residents to useful information including minutes of meetings and will provide a platform for local residents to engage with the councillors who represent them.

Once fully developed, the website will enable residents to have their say on issues that matter to them, enabling online interaction with the Parish Council. We hope you find it useful.

Sheila Chapman Brancepeth Parish Council

Volunteers needed in Brancepeth!

This is a call for help from your new Parish Council. If you can give some of your time to our council activities, you could really make a difference to the village. It would give you the chance to use your skills and talents for good, to help others, and to meet more people in the community, as well as working for a cause you believe in, whether that involves making the roads safer, providing more facilities for young people, improving services for older people, or even something else we haven't thought of! Whatever needs changing (or indeed preserving) in Brancepeth, you could be just the person to help.

The Parish Council usually meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month, apart from August. We are keen to establish a collegiate approach where all residents can contribute to planning, be involved in key decision making and be informed about outcomes on a regular basis. So apart from wanting to co-opt new councillors, we are also hoping to establish a network of interested people to advise us, on an informal basis, on specific issues or take part in small working groups.

If you are interested in either being co-opted on to the Parish Council or being part of a wider consultation group on areas of particular interest, please contact us for a chat. There is no specific time limit, but it would help our own planning if you could contact us before 16th May. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Coffield (tel: 3780024; email: mary.coffield@googlemail.com)

Nick Ellis (tel: 3782939; email: n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

Hassall Balshen (tel: 3781295; email: hassall.balshen@gmail.com)

Congratulations to Dave & Josie Armstrong's Son

Chris aged 35yrs - (married in St Brandon's to Catherine in 2016)

On his recent promotion to

'Lieutenant Colonel Royal Marines'

Dates for the Diary:-

May	16th Sun	Messy Church, 4.00pm, Zoom
May	17th Mon	Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
May	20th Thurs	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
May	28th Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Zoom.
Jun	13th Sun	Messy Church, 4.00pm, Zoom
Jun	25th Fri	Garden Club AGM, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Jun	30th Wed	BCA AGM, 7,30pm, Village Hall
Jul	18th Sun	Messy Church, 4.00pm

Photos

Front cover - © Sue Morgan – Church Porch with daffodil tubs planted by Edward Staines in the hope of a Spring wedding for daughter Fiona – 4th attempt now planned for September!

Inside front cover – ©*Images from Messy Church* showing Elsie's chocolate and rainbow crosses

Back cover - © - Anna Brooker - Images taken at the BCA Pop Up Lunch

Inside back cover — © Josie Armstrong — James Aston Ellis, winner of the Easter Trail competition organised by the BCA & St Brandon's Church © - Sheila Chapman — The new Parish Council noticeboard on Wolsingham Road

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

June newsletter entries no later than 18th May

Please send to Sue Morgan at <u>sueatpeppermires@gmail.com</u>

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

Peter Aitken Chairman Ian Stoker

Martyn Jones Vice chairman Jean Merrington Choir & Church

Jo Dalton Secretary (& Website) Geraldine Jennings Bookings & Garden Club Margot Harrison Treasurer Joan Taylor Subscription, Wednesday

Coffee & Cinema Club

Josie Armstrong Social Secretary

Anna Brooker Church Representative

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 Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess

& 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

Mary Coffield (tel: 3780024; email: mary.coffield@googlemail.com)

Nick Ellis (tel: 3782939; email: n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

Hassall Balshen (tel: 3781295; email: hassall.balshen@gmail.com)

Parish Clerk Geoff Smith 07986197346

County Councillors: olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk

fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org

Easter Trail Winner - James Aston Ellis

'It's been The Best Easter Ever!' he says!!



Adult Winner - Bev Stoker



The new Parish Council noticeboard on Wolsingham Road



Jill Dickinson & Josie Armstrong preparing the Pop Up Lunch in the Village Hall



Two of the tables showing the ingredients and the offerings!

