

# **St Brandon's Church**

## **Brancepeth**



**Newsletter: January 2022**

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







## Parochial Church Council

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>
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:-

Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Sue Morgan (3781172)  
Tom Hobbs (07857437860)  
Jean Hodgson (3780289)  
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
Music Co-ordinator	Richard Gooding
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (3847431), Valeria Dietz, Lucy Hodge (07891867181).
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (3735674)
Events coordinator	Janette Foxe <a href="mailto:events@stbrandon.org.uk">events@stbrandon.org.uk</a> .
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:	Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Carys Funnell, Richard Gooding, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Tom Hobbs, Martin Peacock.
Fabric:	James Morgan (chair), Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines.
Website	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

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

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

Dear Friends

One of the less prominent headlines of recent days reported the death of the 'recycled cathedral' builder, Justo Gallego Martinez, at the age of 96. As a young man, Justo's education was disrupted by the Spanish Civil War, then his hopes of becoming a Trappist monk were dashed when he contracted TB. After this unpromising start in life, in his thirties he inherited a plot of land from his parents and decided to create a hermitage to the Virgin Mary.



Justo spent six decades singlehandedly constructing the building, entirely from scrap and recycled materials, until it grew and became a cathedral. It's not yet finished, nor does it have planning permission, building control authorization or any recognition by the Roman Catholic Church. It all earned him the name 'God's Crazy Builder'. He lived humbly within the building, and died there, alone and peaceful. Since Justo's death, an architect has offered their professional services to legalise the building for use and a Christian association, the Messengers of Peace, has taken ownership and will complete it, fulfilling Justo's vision.

As the new year begins and we face uncertainty and pandemic conditions once more, perhaps Justo's story will inspire us to consider what we are building in our lives? Justo refused to be discouraged by setbacks but took what was discarded and turned it into something beautiful. He dreamed dreams and worked to make them happen; he thought outside the box and way beyond what most of us would dare to imagine. Justo demonstrated his Christian faith and priorities openly, in ways that provoked and inspired others. Ultimately, he lived knowing that it's daily faithfulness which counts, for God will bring each of our lives' work to completion in his way and his time.

Closer to home is another amazing cathedral: like me you may have received Christmas cards bearing beautiful images of it; you may catch glimpses as you travel locally, or you may visit or worship there. Those who built in Durham all those centuries ago shared Justo's vision, faith and hope. The monks who brought Cuthbert here were probably also ridiculed as crazy, but their legacy remains, to the glory of God.

So I close with a question: what will we build in our lives and community, this year?

With all good wishes

*Anna*

Anna Brooker

Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church.

# St Brandon's January 2022– Services and Readings

*Sunday services are at 10:15am every week.*

*At the time of writing, services are in person, in church.*

*Everyone is required to wear a face covering unless exempt. Thank you.*

*If you are unable to join in person, you are welcome to join online,  
or to view the recording later, at <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>*

*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**.*

***Evening Prayer** is held fortnightly on **Thursdays at 7:30pm** via Zoom.  
Everyone is welcome, please contact Geoff Moore or Anna*

*Please phone or email for further details*

## **Jan 2nd      Epiphany      Parish Eucharist 10.15**

First:	Hester Higon	Isaiah 60: 1-6
Gospel:	Wilfred Foxe	Matthew 2: 1-12
Psalm 72		
	David Eltringham	Intercessions

## **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>      Evening Prayer      via Zoom 7.30pm**

## **Jan 9<sup>th</sup>      Baptism of Christ      Morning Worship with Baptism 10.15am**

First:	Edward Staines	Isaiah 43:1-7
Gospel:	Caroline Middleditch	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
(no psalm)		
	Geoff Moore	Intercessions

## **Jan 16<sup>th</sup>      Epiphany 2      Parish Eucharist 10.15**

First:	Mike Higon	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
Gospel:	Jean Hodgson	John 2: 1-11
Psalm 36: 5-10		
	Wilfred Foxe	Intercessions

**Messy Church New Year Party      3.00pm – 5.00pm**

## **Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer via Zoom 7.30pm**

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> Epiphany 3 Parish Eucharist 10.15**

### ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***

First:	Jean Merrington	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Gospel:	Gillian Smellie	Luke 4: 14-21
Psalm 19:1-6		
	Sue Hope	Intercessions

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Presentation (Candlemas) Parish Eucharist 10.15**

First:	David Eltringham	Hebrews 2: 14-end
Gospel:	Nick Brooker	Luke 2: 22-40
Psalm 24: 1-10		
	James Morgan	Intercessions

## **Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Evening Prayer via Zoom 7.30pm**

**Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 4 before Lent Parish Eucharist 10.15**

### ***Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952***

First:	Alison Moore	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Gospel:	Sue Morgan	Luke 5: 1-11
Psalm 138		
	Richard Gooding	Intercessions

### **Sidespersons**

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> David & Fiona Eltringham  
Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Iris Waggott  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Caroline Middleditch & Pat Sharples  
Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> Jean Hodgson & Annette Johnson  
Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan & Josie Armstrong  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Nick Brooker & Colleen Turnbull

### **Flowers**

Epiphany – Guild  
Lynne Hastie  
Sarah Nicholson  
Iris Waggott  
Christine Dodd  
Jean Hodgson

## Coffee

Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jane Stout
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Metcalfe
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Alison Moore
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stout
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan

## Tech Rota

Caroline Middleditch
Mike & Hester Higton
Bridget & Tom Higton
Caroline Middleditch
David & Fiona Eltringham
Mike & Hester Higton

## Church Cleaning

*January – Team C*

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker.

*February – Team A*

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Jane Stout, Sue Hope.

## **Vestry Report**

*Baptism:*

*Mabs Heslop 19<sup>th</sup> December*



**Come and join the fun.**

**Activities and stories from the Bible.**

Every Sunday commencing on

9th January 2022

We get together after the first hymn and re-join the service for communion.

# New Year



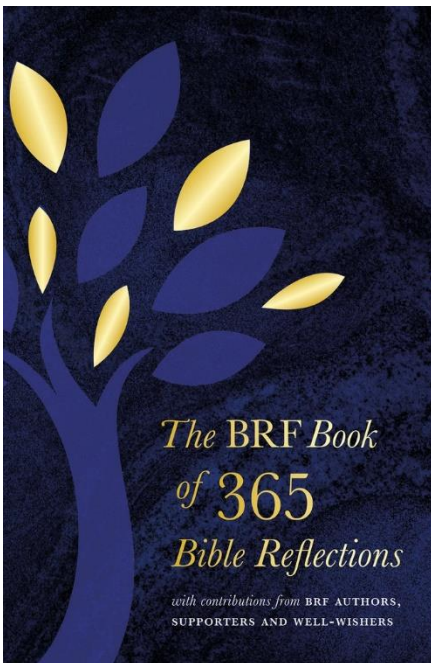
# Party



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm in church**

**crafts    games    tea together**

**ALL WELCOME - come and join in the fun!**



### ***New Year Special Offer***

*This wonderful hardback book of short Bible readings and reflections would make a great gift – or treat yourself to one!*

*The readings are undated so you can start anytime - a new year is as good a time as any!*

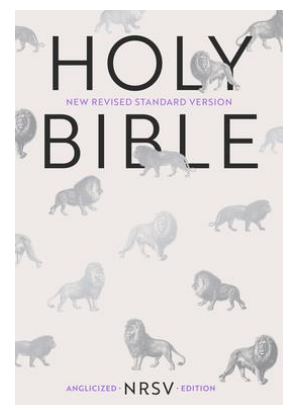
*RRP £14.99 but available at St Brandon's for just £10 per copy.*

*Sign the list in church, drop a marked envelope through the Rectory door or email [rector@stbrandon.org.uk](mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk) by 20 January to take advantage of this offer.*

### **Buy a Bible for St Brandon's Church**

We are looking to purchase Bibles to put in the backs of chairs, for use by visitors and in services. They are a bright, modern edition with helpful notes and guides, in the translation we use regularly on Sundays. If you'd like to donate one, perhaps to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please sign the list in church or email

[rector@stbrandon.org.uk](mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk) by 20 January. *Bibles are £12 each: payment details will be sent to those who donate.*      **Thank you.**





## Brancepeth Youth Club

### January to April 2022

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 meet fortnightly in the Village Hall on Sundays 6-8pm. The dates are:

January	16*, 30
February	13, 27
March	13, 27
April	10

\*The first meeting back is traditionally the New Year Party. This year the theme is 'F'. Come in fancy dress (prizes available!), bring food and games all related to the theme! We will also explore holding a film night as one of the meetings.

If Covid restrictions are re-instated, we'll return to Zoom.

#### Leaders

Geoff Moore	373 5674	<a href="mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com">durmoores@btinternet.com</a>
Martin Peacock	07503 242074	

***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!

## Salvation Army Christmas Appeal



Thank you, to everyone who brought gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal on 5 December. The gifts will go to families identified by Social Services or local schools as being in particular need this year. Once again, Lieutenant Ali Brooks was delighted by your generous contributions. Janette Foxe

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY January 2022

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

### **'God comes'**

- 1 **New Year** Looking into the unknown months ahead, ask for joy and patience
- 2 **Christmas 2 God comes: give thanks for Jesus' birth as a vulnerable child**
- 3 Stockley Lane
- 4 For courage for those who are fearful because of Covid
- 5 Wooley Grange, Springwell Farm, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den
- 6 **Epiphany** *'a moment of recognition of a profound truth'*. May we be open to epiphanies.
- 7 Goodwell Lea
- 8 Quarry Hill and cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm and Goodwell Field
- 9 **Baptism of Christ God comes: give thanks for Jesus' baptism, aligning himself with us**
- 10 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth
- 11 For people who struggle with long winter darkness
- 12 **Aelred of Hexham, 1167; Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth 689** Pray for modern day local leaders
- 13 **George Fox, founder of the Quakers** Pray for ecumenical partners
- 14 The Castle and Lodge
- 15 Whitworth Lane and Black House
- 16 **Epiphany 2 God comes: give thanks for the 'wise men' who travelled towards the truth**
- 17 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
- 18 **Week of prayer for Christian unity** starts. Pray for other DH7 churches
- 19 Pray for Bridge Road and Tanglewood
- 20 Durham Road and the Forge
- 21 Village North, Station House and Cottages
- 22 The Village South
- 23 **Epiphany 3 God comes: give thanks for the Holy Spirit, opening our hearts**
- 24 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm
- 25 **Conversion of St Paul** Pray for those who put themselves in danger for the sake of truth
- 26 **Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul** Pray for someone who has been a companion for you
- 27 Peppermires, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm, Holywell and East Parks
- 28 **Thomas Aquinas 1274** Pray for teachers and preachers as they help us learn
- 29 Stockley Grove

**30 Epiphany 4 God comes: give thanks for God the Creator, making us creative too**

**31** For all who struggle for whatever reason- physically, mentally or due to bereavement

If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison Moore, [durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)

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.



Tuesdays 11 & 25 Jan 2022 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 8 & 22 Feb 2022 at 11:00

For more information, please email [alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk](mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk)

Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY CHEESE & CHAT GARDEN PARTY!**

Do drop by between 12.00 midday and 2.00pm on New Year's Day to share bread and cheese, and a cup of coffee at the castle. This year, we are relocating into the courtyard to be sure to beat the covid! There will be a contributions pot for 'what you will' for The Children's Society, and Send A Cow.

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



In advance of our AGM the Brancepeth Leisure and Allotment Gardeners' Club is keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on an allotment in 2022. Plots vary in size depending on the time and experience you have but we welcome anyone who is looking for a new, green and healthy challenge in the New Year!

The agenda, minutes and reports will be circulated to members by email in advance of the AGM which will take place towards the end of February. If you are not a member and would like to discuss possibilities please contact a committee member at [baacommittee3@gmail.com](mailto:baacommittee3@gmail.com) (details on the back page of newsletter).

Carole Reed (Secretary)



### **VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING ROTA**

8th December	Martyn and Christine Jones	3789297
15th December	Vivienne Lowe	3780974
	Janiece Spence	4356357
22nd December	Val Gibbons	3784200
	Linda Larnach	3757554
29th December	Rosemary Monument	3780456
	Sheena Murray	3781097
5th January	Margot Harrison	
	Gillian Smellie	3739420
12th January	Martyn & Christine Jones	3789297
19th January	Vivienne Lowe	3780974
	Janiece Spence	4356357
26th January	Val Gibbons	3784200
	Linda Larnach	3757554
2nd February	Rosemary Monument	3780456
	Sheena Murray	3781097
9th February	Margot Harrison	
	Gillian Smellie	3739420
16th February	Martyn & Christine Jones	3789297
23rd February	Vivienne Lowe	3780974
	Janiece Spence	4356357

Please if any of these dates you are not available, please contact Martyn or Christine Jones on 0191 3789297.

### **The Great Sunflower Grow-In of Summer 2020**

With no Garden Club Show possible in 2020, Edward Staines helped to set up a Sunflower competition for the village.

It proved to be very popular. Yet for some curious reason, only one photograph seems to have survived of the many Sunflowers grown.

If you grew one of these amazing plants and took a photograph of it, the Archives Pandemic project would be delighted to have a copy; preferably in electronic form (e.g. jpeg or pdf).

Please send your photo files to [Rjpinetops@icloud.com](mailto:Rjpinetops@icloud.com).

If you don't hold the photo electronically but have a paper copy, do not hesitate to drop me a note and we can arrange to scan it for posterity.

We will be very grateful to receive it.

Thank you

Richard Jackson and Vivienne Lowe

**PS** If you took any other photographs of your garden during 20/21, we would love to receive those too – and if you took advantage of the lockdown and made some changes to your garden, a covering note explaining what you did would also be much appreciated.

## Village Hall Update



I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope that 2022 transpires to be a better year for us all. Thank you to all members who have recently renewed their annual subscriptions which, due to the impact of the pandemic, will run from 1 September 2021 to end August 2022. The subscription monies greatly contribute to the income of our cherished village hall building as well as helping to facilitate hall users with social, recreational, and educational activities. Thank you also to Brancepeth Parish Council for their annual grant, which helps contribute to the running costs of the building.

During 2021 the ongoing pandemic with social distancing rules impacted upon groups and individuals accessing the building for a significant part of last year. Since the autumn, the building has been fully reopened with all the regular user groups now up and running. For those of you who would like to try something new in 2022, please see the list of regular activities in the table below:

Art Group	Tuesday	7-9pm
Badminton	Thursday	7:30-9:30pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday	10:30-11:30am
Knit & Natter	Tuesday (fortnightly)	2-4pm
Snooker	Monday	7-10pm
Tai Chi	Wednesday	9:30-10:30am
Yoga	Monday	7:30-9pm
Youth Group (St Brandon's)	Sunday (fortnightly)	6-8pm

Also, a reminder that members can use the hall for ad-hoc casual sports including: table tennis, soft tennis, badminton, and snooker. Please contact the bookings secretary on 0191 378 1583 for availability or use the contact form on the website: [brancepethcommunityassociation.co.uk](http://brancepethcommunityassociation.co.uk)

The last few months have seen soaring energy costs (a significant element of the village hall running costs) this, together with the poor insulation of the building and an aging central heating system, has focussed the committee to explore green alternatives to reduce costs and improve the energy efficiency of the building. During 2022, we will be fixing on/off light sensors where possible and installing a HIVE heating controller to minimise heat wastage. Thank you to Tai Chi Group - who became a new section of the BCA in 2021 - for their £300 donation to help with the cost of this item. In addition to this, we are exploring green grant opportunities to replace the heating system for a greener energy efficient system for the long- term viability of the building.

We hope to resume a range of social nights and activities including quizzes, men's nights, and cinema evenings in the coming months (subject to the pandemic). However, as you know,

we have lost the valuable contribution on the committee of Peter Aitken, Josie Armstrong, Margot Harrison, and Joan Taylor and therefore we welcome anyone who would like to organise activities or just lend a hand on a rota. Please contact me.

Look forward to seeing you in the Village Hall soon!

**Martyn Jones, BCA vice-Chair**

(0191 378 9297)

[martynjones553@gmail.com](mailto:martynjones553@gmail.com) or [brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:brancepethca@gmail.com)

## **Brancepeth Monday Yoga Class**

The lovely wood-floored upstairs space in Brancepeth Village Hall is the venue for a Monday evening yoga class. Running from 7.30 to 9.00pm, the class is open to anyone but is especially planned with older people in mind.

It offers an evening session of carefully paced movement, and as well as classic yoga poses we give attention to breathing and awareness, with plenty of time for relaxation.

All levels of experience are welcome, and everything we do can be adapted to individual members' abilities and needs.

The class has been running for many years. While it had to be suspended during lockdown, since May it has resumed with numbers kept to a level that allows for people to work at a suitable social distance. The hall itself is well heated, spacious and airy, and we occasionally hear owls calling from outside!

We currently run a booking system, so if you think you may be interested in trying the class, please contact Lynne Hastie... (3781871)

(3781871)

## **Tai Chi**

"COVID regulations permitting - Tai Chi restarts on 5th January in Brancepeth Village Hall from 09.30-10.30. In the meantime wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022"

### 'The Phoenix Flyers'

Brancepeth Ladies are pleased to say that they have arranged for Frank Stephenson to give a talk about his charity.

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00 pm in the Golf Club dining room.

£5 including light refreshments (£3 for Ladies members)



## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Installation of Christmas Tree and Light Switch on Event**

A big thank you to all those who helped us with this event. We are particularly grateful to Garden Vision for the donation of the tree. The Brancepeth bakers came up trumps again with a ready supply of sausage rolls and mince pies and members of the village choir helped to lead the community singing with gusto. We were reassured to have safety advice from our Community Police Officers, who were also in attendance. Last, but definitely not least, we would also like to thank all those who turned out on a rather damp night to continue the practice started last year and see the lighting of the village Christmas tree. We hope to make this an annual event.

### **Budget**

Although there was no meeting in December, we are continuing to work behind the scenes on various projects. One of the most important tasks is to draw up a budget for the coming year. This is proving to be a demanding task and we are very grateful to our clerk for her diligence in providing us with the background information we need and for giving us advice on procedures. We will be doing all we can to not only meet our statutory obligations but also to have sufficient funds to cover projects such as the tree survey, improvements to road safety, maintaining and improving the appearance of the village and finalising cricket field lease.

### **Noticeboard**

We are pleased to see that the noticeboard on Wolsingham Road is beginning to be used more regularly to publicise local events. Anyone wishing to put a poster on the noticeboard should contact Mary or Nick.

### **Our meetings**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. We are still looking for an additional member of the Parish Council so if you feel you can spare some time to help us please do not hesitate to contact any member of the current PC or our clerk. No previous experience required!

### **Brancepeth Litter Pick Morning**

To support the up keep and maintenance of our beautiful Village the Parish Council have purchased some litter picking equipment. We would like to invite volunteers to register their interest in our organised 'Litter Pick Mornings' starting in the Spring.

All welcome please bring children and/or dogs the more the merrier.

### **Recommended Equipment:**

- Gloves
- Appropriate footwear
- High vis vests (we will have limited supply)

### **Dates:**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.30 am Meet at the Castle Gates
- 11.00am Tea and Coffee in the Village Hall

## Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Friday 14th January at 7.30pm and the hostess will be Anna Brooker at the Rectory. (Covid situation permitting – otherwise on Zoom).

The book to read is, 'Three things about Elsie,' by Joanna Cannon. Two of those things are fairly straight forward, the third might take a little more explaining...

All welcome.

Val Gibbons.

## Christmas Show thanks

Many thanks to all those who took part in the Christmas Show to make it such a resounding success: singers, actors, musicians, back stage, front of house, and of course the audience. Thank you for doing a lateral flow test and wearing a mask. I am always amazed at the wealth of talent in this village, and grateful to those who spend so long rehearsing. If you feel you could do an act next year, let me know.

Peter Burdess has filmed the show; if you would like a copy, let me know

[mwmonument@gmail.com](mailto:mwmonument@gmail.com)

Rosemary

## THANK YOU from Evelyn & Peter Aitken

Evelyn and I would like to give a big **thank you** to all our friends and neighbours in Brancepeth and nearby for all the good wishes, most generous gifts and that special leaving do. Brancepeth has always been noted for its catering and on this occasion surpassed itself with the wonderful selection of food. The organisers and cooks did a splendid job.

The Headlam Hall vouchers you gave us for Evelyn's spa day and our meal we plan to use early in the new year. We will certainly need them by then as there is plenty of work still to do in our new home.

We would also like to thank all those who helped facilitate the moving out process with visits to the tip and charity shops.

Evelyn particularly appreciated the gifts and support of Church and Messy Church and hopes to be able to attend these from time to time.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our 20 years in Brancepeth and all the activities we have been involved in. It is a special village with an excellent community spirit.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter & Evelyn.

## **Dates for the Diary:-**

**Please check current Covid arrangements before assuming these events are taking place.**

Jan	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village hall
Jan	Mondays	-	Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Jan	Tuesdays	-	Knit and Natter 4th & 18th, Village Hall 2 - 4 pm.
Jan	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Jan	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall
Jan	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Jan	Sundays	-	Youth Club, 6.00 -8.00pm, Village Hall
Jan	13th	Thurs	Brancepeth Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club
Jan	14th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Rectory (or Zoom)
Jan	16th	Sun	Messy Church New Year Party, 3.00pm-5.00pm Church
Mar	12th	Sat	Litter Picking, 9.30am, Castle Gates
May	14th	Sat	Litter Picking, 9.30am, Castle Gates

## **Photos**

***Front cover*** - ©Mike Higton – South side of the church in snow

***Inside front cover*** – ©Anna Brooker – A selection of Advent windows seen in the village in December

***Inside back cover*** – ©Mary Coffield - Scenes from Lighting the Village Christmas Tree. A good turnout despite the dull and damp weather

***and*** ©Peter Burdess – Scenes from the children's nativity play at the Village Show

***Back cover*** – © Anna Brooker – Messy Church Christingle

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

***February newsletter entries no later than 18<sup>th</sup> January***

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



## Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

	<i>Chairman</i>	Val Gibbons	<i>Subscriptions</i>
Martyn Jones	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings &amp; Garden Club</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary (&amp; Website)</i>	Jean Merrington	
Ian Stoker	<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>Wednesday Coffee</i>
	<i>Social Secretary</i>		<i>Cinema Club</i>
Anna Brooker	<i>Church Representative</i>		

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

### Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.

Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
Treasurer	Ian Stoker, Castle Lodge (3784986)
Membership	Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge (3784200)
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)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (3782748)
Garden Club	Barry Dickinson (3782398)
Snooker Bookings	Geraldine Jennings (3781583)
Wednesday Coffee	Christine Jones (3789297)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674)

### Parish Council

Hassall Balshen – Chair (tel: 3781295; email: [hassall.balshen@gmail.com](mailto:hassall.balshen@gmail.com))  
Mary Coffield – Deputy chair (tel: 3780024; email: [mary.coffield@googlemail.com](mailto:mary.coffield@googlemail.com))  
Nick Ellis (tel: 3782939; email: [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk))  
Gillian Smellie, Email: [gillian@smellie.com](mailto:gillian@smellie.com)  
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Michael Stephenson, Email: [stephenson15@me.com](mailto:stephenson15@me.com)

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)  
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Festive fare on the field



and Lighting  
the Village  
Christmas Tree



The children's  
nativity play  
at the Village  
Show





