

# **St Brandon's Church**

## **Brancepeth**



## **Newsletter: April 2022**

**Also online at**

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





# *Invitation*

*Dear Villagers,*

*Please join the celebrations*

***'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'***

*Outdoor Traditional Street Party*

*Brancepeth Castle Courtyard*

***Sunday 5th June, 3:30pm***



*Bring your own drinks and savoury picnics,  
enjoy an open cake table ...activities & music.*

***Enter the 'best crown' competition***

*Further information in the next 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>

**May** Newsletter entries – no later than **April 18th**

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

Dear Friends

I write this three weeks into the war in Ukraine, praying that by the time you read it, we will be closer to a peaceful resolution. Already the everyday lives of millions of innocent Ukrainians have been destroyed, families broken apart, homes abandoned. We all ask, what can I do?

St Brandon's PCC considered this question recently and asked me to share these outcomes.

1. We are encouraged to **give money** to agencies working in Ukraine and surrounding countries: the most effective way to offer emergency help. You can *either* give to the **DEC** (Disasters Emergency Committee), the network of large charities with huge global expertise in relief work *or* to **USPG**, the Anglican Church's agency working locally across Eastern Europe

Details for both are on the cover of this newsletter. **THANK YOU**

2. St Brandon's has registered with **The Sanctuary Foundation**, an established charity seeking to settle refugees in the UK: we can draw on their support and experience.

We hope to make rooms available in the Castle and several homes around the village and provide an imaginative offer of help through members of the community.

What might you offer? Please contact Alison Hobbs or me to discuss and respond.

**THANK YOU**

When I last wrote here in January I mentioned Durham cathedral, where fugitives have always been welcomed. I asked:

*What will we build in our lives and community, this year?*

May Brancepeth provide welcome, sanctuary and hope as we work together in the coming weeks and may God strengthen and guide us all.

With all good wishes

*Anna*

Anna Brooker

Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church.



## St Brandon's April 2022– Services and readings

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

***Please bring a face covering.***

*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*

**Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Evening Prayer via Zoom 7.30pm**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent 5 Parish Eucharist with Baptism 10.15am**

First: Alison Moore Isaiah 43: 16-21

Gospel: Ken Howe John 12: 1-8

Psalm 126

Carys Funnell Intercessions

**April 10<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings: First: Edward Staines Philippians 2: 5-11

Gospel Tom Hobbs Luke 19: 28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end

David Eltringham Intercessions

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES: *Were you there?***

*Reflections from some who were there when Jesus was crucified..*

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm: Simon of Cyrene**

Readings First: Isaiah 42: 1-9 p.697\*

*\*Page numbers in church Bibles*

Gospel: Mark 15: 16-23 p.57

Psalm 36 p.540

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm: A Roman centurion**

Readings      First:                                  Isaiah 49: 1-7 *p.705*  
                    Gospel:                                Mark 15: 25-39 *p.57*  
                    Psalm 71 *p.562-3*

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm: Mary, mother of James and Joses**

Readings      First:                                  Isaiah 50:4-9a *p.707*  
                    Gospel:                                Mark 15: 40-47 *p.57-8*  
                    Psalm 70 *p.562*

**Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm: Eucharist, with foot washing, followed by Vigil**

Readings:      First:              Mike Higton              Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14    *p.62*  
                    Second:        Janette Foxe            1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 *p.185*  
                    Gospel:                                  John 13: 1-17; 31b-35    *p.117-8*

**Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**Afternoon Service with Communion- 1.30pm**

Readings:    Psalm 22                                  *to be sung by Choir p.531-2*  
                    First:                                  Isaiah 52: 13 – 53:12    *p.710*  
                    The Gospel of the Passion:    John 18: 28-40; John 19: 1-16a; John 19: 16b-37  
*p.121-2*  
  
                    The Gospel of the Burial of Christ: John 19:38- 42    *p.122*

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday**

**Dawn Vigil – 5.30 am**

Readings:      First to fifth                              as set in service booklet  
                    Gospel:                                        Luke 24: 1-12



### **All Age Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings:	First:	James Morgan	Acts 10: 34-43
	Gospel:	Hester Higton	John 20: 1-18
	Psalm	118:14-24	
		Edward Staines	Intercessions

### **April 24<sup>th</sup>, Easter 2**

### **Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings:	First:	Wilfred Foxe	Acts 5; 27-32
	Gospel:	Caroline Middleditch	John 20: 19-31
	Psalm	150	
		Doris Dobson	Intercessions

### **May 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter 3**

### **Parish Eucharist – 10.15am**

Readings:	First:	Carys Funnell	Acts 9: 1-20
	Gospel:	Jean Hodgson	John 21: 1-19
	Psalm	30	
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions

### **Sidespersons**

Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pat Sharples & Iris Waggott	5 <sup>th</sup> Lent
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Johnson & Josie Armstrong	Palm Sunday, Guild
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Hodgson & Sue Morgan (Maundy Thursday 7.30pm)	
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stout (Good Friday 1.30pm)	
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup> (Dawn)	Nick Brooker	Easter Day, Guild
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	David & Fiona Eltringham	
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bonny Bainbridge & Colleen Turnbull	Meg Dewhurst
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Caroline Middleditch & Pat Sharples	Eileen Crawford

### **Flowers**

### **Coffee**

Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Annette Johnson
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup> (Dawn)	

### **Tech Rota**

Caroline Middleditch
Higtons
David & Fiona Eltringham
Geoff & Alison Moore
Higtons

Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Metcalfe	Higtons
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Moore	Caroline Middleditch
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jane Stout	Geoff & Alison Moore

## **Church Cleaning**

*April – Team C*

Carol Beeby, Vicki Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

*May – Team A*

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Jane Stout, Sue Hope

NB Please bring your own vacuum cleaner, the church vacuum is being repaired.

***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**

### **March 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. The dates are:

March 27 – this will be a film night showing *War Horse*. Because the film is 2 hours 20 minutes long, we will start at **5.30pm**. There will be no charge for the film, just the usual £1 subs to contribute towards the cost of the hall hire

April 10 – normal club night, 6-8pm

In addition, the Diocesan Pulse event takes place in the Cathedral on Sunday 3 April, 6.30-8.30pm. We plan to take a group, and will be in touch to confirm details.

*Leaders*

Geoff Moore 373 5674 [durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

## **Book Club**

Our next book will be, 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall,' by Anne Brontë. We meet on Friday 1 April 7.30 p.m. at Nick and Dawn Ellis's house, 24

Goodwell Lea.

Also, at the end of April, on Friday 29th, we will meet at Val Gibbon's home, 3 The Forge to talk about, 'The Crossing Places' by Elly Griffiths.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons





Come and join the fun.  
Activities and stories from the Bible.  
Every Sunday

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



**Our next Messy Church  
will be in May...**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 3-5pm in church**  
***crafts Bible story songs games tea***

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

### **St. Brandon's Electoral Roll**

Prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on May 8th 2022 this roll is to be updated by the 23rd April 2022.

A revision of the Electoral Roll took place in 2019 so many will already be on the roll.

However if you are new to the Parish you may wish to be added to the Electoral Roll. You will need to be over 16 years of age, baptised and a member of the Church of England.

Being on the Electoral Roll enables you to vote on church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

If you would like to be on the roll, then please contact [carol21beeby@btinternet.com](mailto:carol21beeby@btinternet.com) or speak to me in church, for a form. Thank you, Carol Beeby Electoral Roll Officer

### **FLOWER GUILD - DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER FLOWERS**

Donations towards the cost of the Easter flowers would be greatly appreciated. The price of flowers has risen considerably in the recent past and we want to make the church look as beautiful as we can on our limited budget. The enclosed envelope can be delivered to any of the following Guild members:

Jessie Brown: Kirkstone, The Forge      Christine Jones: 32 Goodwell Lea  
Hillary Moss: 1 Stockley Grove      Lynne Hastie: 26 Goodwell Lea

Otherwise donations can be handed to any Guild member or left in church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jessie Brown  
Chair

## Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary

*'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful'* Colossians 3:15  
You are invited to use this diary and share in the prayers offered daily in church.

- 1 For the people of the Ukraine
- 2 The Castle and Lodge
- 3 **Passiontide begins: 'I want to know Christ, to share in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings'...Philippians 3:10**
- 4 For the progress of the *Living in Love and Faith* Lent groups at St Brandon's
- 5 For Quarry Hill, the Cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite farm, Goodwell Field
- 6 For the stability and peace of the world community
- 7 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry Garth
- 8 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood
- 9 For those who live in Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages
- 10 **Palm Sunday 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' Luke 19:38**
- 11 For all who act in the name of Jesus Christ, for words and deeds which reflect him
- 12 For those struggling with loss and bereavement and those who support them
- 13 Stockley Lane, Village South,
- 14 Maundy Thursday For the unity of the world-wide Church
- 15 Good Friday We give thanks for the self-offering of Christ for the world's healing
- 16 For all who watch and wait, living with uncertainty and liminality
- 17 **Easter Day 'The Lord is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!'**
- 18 Durham Rd and The Forge
- 19 For refugees and those who support them
- 20 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm
- 21 For our schools, teachers, children, students, auxiliary staff, on holiday
- 22 Peppermires, Holywell, East Parks, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton farm
- 23 **St George**, Patron saint, martyr, c304
- 24 **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Jesus stood among them, and said, 'Peace be with you!'**
- 25 **Mark the Evangelist For courage, energy and joy in our witness to Christ**
- 26 Goodwell Lea
- 27 All who live in Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View
- 28 Holocaust Martyrs Remembrance Day: For all who speak out in the name of truth
- 29 Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon farm, Springwell farm, Brawns Den
- 30 Whitworth Lane, Black House

*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 5 & 26 April 2022 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 10 & 24 May 2022 at 11:00

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

*Rev. Alison. St Brandon's Church*

#### COFFEE MORNING ROTA

6th April	Rosemary Monument	3780456
	Sheena Murray	3781097
13th April	Margot Harrison	3784813
	Val Gibbons	3784200
20th April	Martyn & Christine Jones	3789297
27th April	Vivienne Lowe	3780974
	Janiece Spence	4356357
4th May	Joan Taylor	3783630
	Linda Larnach	3757554
11th May	Rosemary Monument	3780456
	Sheena Murray	3781097
18th May	Margot Harrison	3784813
	Val Gibbons	3784200
25th May	Martyn & Christine Jones	3789297

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

If anyone else would like to volunteer to take a turn on the rota please contact Martyn or Christine.

Many thanks

## **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **AT LAST, A CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING OF THE ARCHIVE ROOM IN BRANCEPETH CASTLE**

An Exhibition based on

#### **“THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANNAH HAUXWELL”**

#### **A FASCINATING GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN THE DURHAM DALES OVER SEVERAL GENERATIONS**

kindly loaned by the Fitzhugh Library in Middleton in Teesdale that was given her family records and who created the exhibition in 2019.

This is an opportunity to view this unique collection of Hannah’s personal effects that spans four generations of the Hauxwell family.

Hannah first came to public attention after being covered in an ITV documentary, “Too long a Winter”, made by Yorkshire Television in 1979 and which followed her solitary existence as a farmer living alone in a remote farmhouse without electricity or running water, in the isolated dale of Baldersdale.

**FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL – PREVIEW PARTY IN THE CASTLE –**

**7.00 – 9.30 P.M. TICKETS £5.00 (purchase in advance)**

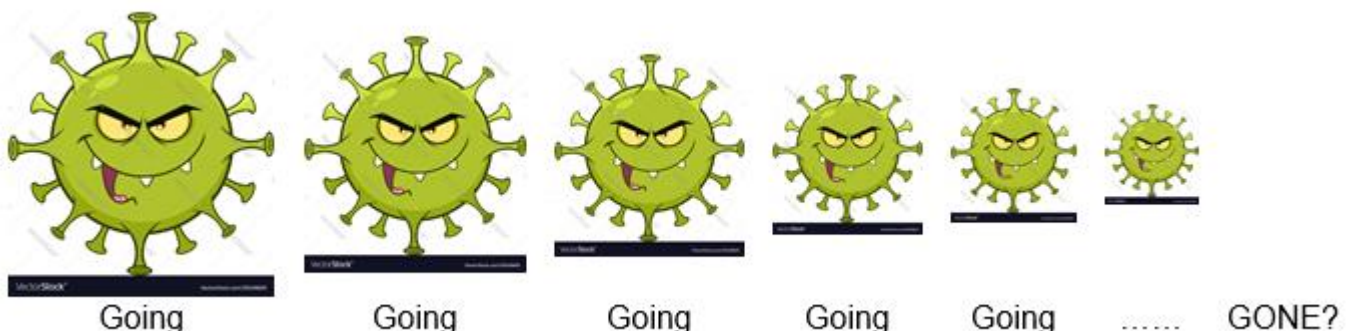
**SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 10.00 – 4.00**

**AND SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 12.00- 4.00**

**EXHIBITION IN THE CONSTABLE TOWER AND THE ARCHIVE ROOM OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**ADMISSION FREE**

**Tickets for the Preview Party available from Geoff Harrison (378 4813) or Vivienne Lowe (378 0974). Numbers are limited so first come, first served**





Ok, it hasn't gone yet but in the future it will be history and, as we often look at the history of the past, so others following us will want to know what happened in the Great Covid Pandemic of 2020.

This is why a small team from the Brancepeth and Archives and History Group have been busy collecting lots of information on how the virus affected life in our village, to be saved in the archives and hopefully for an exhibition; perhaps even a booklet.

***And now the team need YOUR story of the pandemic.***

Everyone has a story to tell so please let the team record it.

It can be

- mundane or exciting;
- one incident or the whole two years;
- what changes were forced on you and which weren't;
- about suffering from the virus or how you managed to avoid it;
- about if you took up new hobbies, did things you have never had time previously or if you didn't;
- named or you can remain anonymous;
- short or can be long, from two or three paragraphs or two or three pages;
- just your thoughts and fears or can be simply your actions;
- picture or words or both ...

**BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT IS YOUR STORY**

**AND WE WOULD LOVE TO PRESERVE IT FOR POSTERITY**

Contact Vivienne Lowe [17vivienne@gmail.com](mailto:17vivienne@gmail.com) or (378 0974) or Richard Jackson [rpinetops@icloud.com](mailto:rpinetops@icloud.com) or (378 3271) and they will guide you through the process so you can contribute to making history NOW.

**Congratulations to Denise and John Jackson of 4 The Village  
on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary - 17th March 2022**



**St Romald's Church, Romaldkirk, Teesdale**

## Church Events Notices:

2nd April, Life Call, Durham: Durham Diocesan Event, the church will be closed between 9:00am and 4:00pm.

20th April, Events meeting 11-12pm church closed.

30th April, Meeting with Stanhope PCC 10 am -11am.

7th May Away Day 9-5pm church closed.

We apologise that the church will not be available for private prayer at these times.

Janette Foxe

## Precious Memories

The memory of the wonderful “send-off” from St Brandon’s on 27<sup>th</sup> February will not be forgotten. The gentle aroma of fried bacon drifting across the church, as we all sat in quiet contemplation following the Eucharist was just the start. Jeanette and her willing conspirators having the last word in the long running saga of the “lack of bacon sarnies” with the after-service coffee, was a great example of the special spirit and friendship which we have been part of for the past nine and a half years.

St Brandon’s has been a spiritual oasis during our time in County Durham and we thank God for that. Returning to the south of England after 27 years will not be easy, being closer to family is the driving force, but the precious memories of St Brandon’s, the fellowship and good times with friendships made will remain.

Thank you again for all that you gave us both over the past years, the memories and the inspired gifts given to us on Sunday.

**Sally and Robert Scott-Biggs**

## The Larder Cupboard

The Larder Cupboard arrived for the first time outside the Castle on Friday 18th March.

Kathryn hopes to be in the same place every Friday between 10.00am & 12.00 noon.

You can fill up with store cupboard ingredients; many are organic all are carefully sourced.

You can bring your own containers but paper bags are also available.





## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Our meetings

The last meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This was too late for the Parish magazine deadline but minutes will be available on the PC website. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7:30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT April 2022-March 2023

Parish Councils do not receive direct funding from central government. They rely on their Precept to fund the ongoing services for which they are responsible along with additional projects and provision for contingencies. The Precept is part of Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payments.

This year we have had to increase the Precept. The Precept has not been increased for 5 years, over which time our income has gradually fallen behind our expenditure. Our Internal Auditor has advised us that from now on our precept requirement must be based on a properly planned budget. We predict an approximate expenditure of £21,225 for the coming year which, among other things, will cover statutory commitments, regular grant support and one-off costs.

We appreciate that the percentage increase is higher than we would like but we are working to keep our future expenditure down. Our clerk has successfully claimed a VAT refund of £2,907:69 for the three years up to March 2021 (the maximum period for which we could claim). We are actively exploring how we might apply for grant funding to cover important projects like traffic calming installations.

### Litter Picking

The first outing of the litter pickers was on Saturday 12 March. It was very well supported and deemed a success by all who took part. In addition to collecting many bags full of litter, the team also cleared the paths of dead leaves, improving the appearance of the village and making it easier to walk on the pavements. Our thanks go to Michael Stephenson for organising the event and to all those who helped, not least those who also provided cakes, scones and coffee for our get together afterwards. The next litter picking outing will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022



## **Bench on Wolsingham Road**

We would like to say a big thank you to Kath Currie for her very generous donation towards the cost of making and installing the new bench on Wolsingham Road. This is much appreciated.

Mary Coffield, Nick Ellis

On Behalf of Brancepeth Parish Council



## **Brancepeth Community Association**

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7pm Village Hall**

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

- Annual Financial Accounts
- Election of officers of the BCA

Nominations will be taken at the start of the meeting for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Social Secretary. As usual, nominations for the BCA management committee will be accepted up to the start of the meeting. Any resolutions to be with the Secretary (Jo Dalton: [brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:brancepethca@gmail.com)) one week beforehand. All members are very welcome to attend.

## **Musings of a Newsletter Deliverer**

A rhetorical question to start: What is something that you will almost never do in your own home? Well, there are probably a number of things but, as one of the band that delivers the village newsletter to your home on a monthly basis, it occurred to me that we almost never post anything through our own letter boxes. So what? you may well ask.

It may surprise you to know of the sheer variety of letter boxes that your postman encounters, that's assuming that the letter box is found easily in the first place, the easiest being those mounted as a container on the outside of the house.

There are ones high up in the door.

There are ones virtually at ground level.

There are ones with huge mouths.

There are ones with tiny openings.

There are horizontal ones.

There are vertical ones. There are ones with a spring so aggressive that the device would double as a mousetrap – they certainly can lead to bruised fingers.

There are ones where the closure is so feeble that it stays gaping open.

There are ones with a dog behind the door.



There are ones with thick brush draught excluders.

There are ones with a sort of double entry system where, having negotiated the outer opening, there is another inner opening that one has to force the delivery through.

So what does your letter box say about you? Perhaps I'll leave the psychoanalysis to someone better qualified than I am. But I would urge everyone to post an item through their own letter box so that they may appreciate first-hand the problems our trusty postmen experience on a daily basis. After all, I only have to run this gauntlet once a month.

Is yours a friendly letter box?

Anon

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

Apr	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village hall
Apr	Mondays	-	Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Apr	Mondays	-	Knit and Natter 11th & 25th, Village Hall 2 - 4 pm.
Apr	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Apr	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Apr	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	Sunday	-	Youth Club, 27th 5.30 -8.00pm, 'War Horse' V. Hall
Apr	1st	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 24 Goodwell Lea
Apr	2nd	Sat	Life Call: Durham, church closed 9.00am -4.15pm
Apr	Sunday	-	Youth Club, 3rd 6.30 -8.30pm, Cathedral
Apr	Sunday	-	Youth Club, 10th 6.00 -8.00pm, Village Hall
Apr	29th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 3 The Forge
May	8th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, <b>Church</b>

Apr/May	29th – 1st	Brancepeth Archive & History Group, Preview Party & Exhibition, Castle	
May	8th	Sun	Church APCM after the 10.15am service in Church
May	14th	Sat	Litter Picking, 9.30am, Castle Gate
June	6th	Sun	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, 2.30pm in Church & 3.30pm Street Party in Castle Courtyard

### **Photos**

**Front cover** - © Sue Morgan, Daffodils at the Church door.

**Inside front cover** – © Jo Dalton. Jubilee events Poster

**Inside back cover** – ©Anna Brooker, Church Events at Easter & Jubilee Service

**Back cover** – © Alison Hobbs. Poster to publise donation routes for the Ukraine

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

**May newsletter entries no later than 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**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>Garden Club</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary, Website &amp; Bookings</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Social Secretary</i>
Ian Stoker	<i>Treasurer</i>	Anna Brooker	<i>Church Representative</i>
<a href="http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/">http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/</a> 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	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
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	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
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)  
Thomas Hobbs, Email: [tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk)  
Michael Stephenson, Email: [stephenson15@me.com](mailto:stephenson15@me.com)  
Philip Davison, Email: [philipdavison000@btinternet.com](mailto:philipdavison000@btinternet.com)

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)  
**County Councillors:** [olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk](mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk)  
[fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

# EASTER

for Families at St Brandon's

## *Palm Sunday*



**10<sup>th</sup> April 10.15am, meet at the Crossroads**

procession following the cross; special children's group in church

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

## *The Journey of Good Friday*

**10.15am at St Brandon's**

interactive service with family activities,  
followed by seasonal refreshments



***Easter Morning* Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 10.15am**

celebration Communion with children's activities,  
followed by Easter egg hunt



## *Platinum Jubilee Service*



*Songs of Praise at St Brandon's*

*on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm*

*to celebrate our Queen's 70 years*

*will end in good time for the Street Party!*



# Donate to Ukraine



**USPG-Diocese in Europe Emergency Appeal**  
**[www.uspg.org.uk/ukraine](http://www.uspg.org.uk/ukraine)**

**Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine  
Humanitarian Appeal**      **[www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)**