

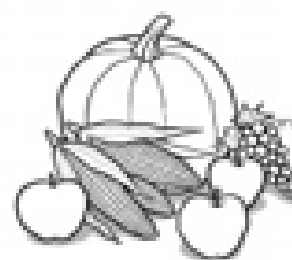
St Brandon's Church

Brancepeth



Newsletter: September 2022

Also online at
www.stbrandon.org.uk/newslet



Harvest Festival

Sun 25th September

10.15am

This year there will again be a **Harvest Procession** through the village.

You are welcome to join this:
children may like to dress up- and adults too!
The procession will meet at the crossroads at **10am**
to walk down to church.
Others are welcome to come straight to church at the usual time.

Please bring gifts of fresh produce to church
on Friday 23rd September.
Non-perishable foods are also most welcome- thank you.

***All proceeds to DASH-
Durham Action for Single Housing***

Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.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:	David Eltringham (07779938611) James Morgan (4476520)
Secretary	Carol Beeby (3847431), (07592 975002)
Treasurer	Mike Higton – co-opted member of P.C.C. (5974675)
Deanery Synod	Caroline Middleditch (378 1400)

Other members:-

Janette Foxe (07587 225 200)	Steve Hodgson (3780289)
Tom Hobbs (07857437860)	Ken Howe (07710098705, 0191-3840589)
Jean Hodgson (3780289)	Sue Morgan (3781172)

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 events@stbrandon.org.uk .
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	www.stbrandon.org.uk

Newsletter entries no later than September 18th please.

Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

I am writing this with another sweltering day in prospect – in the high 20s°C here in the north, and high 30s°C in the south. This is one part of the ‘levelling up’ agenda we don’t want! Probably, however, by the time you read this, it will be raining and cold – but that shouldn’t lead us to think that things are getting back to normal. As with Covid, there are the beginnings of a ‘new normal’ emerging, with high temperatures, wildfires, drought declarations and hosepipe bans the order of the day.

For most of us, these are probably relatively minor inconveniences, though for some the high temperatures mean serious health risks, and for farmers there is the prospect of crop failure. For many in other parts of the world, climate change already means regular crop failures, famine, or the prospect of having to move (environmental refugees are already a reality and the number is only going to grow).

We know all this, but I wonder to what extent I, and we, are prepared to radically alter our lifestyles to try to prevent the rise in global average surface temperatures exceeding 1.5°C – the critical level above which there is likely to be runaway climate change. We will be thinking about all of this again in a series of three Sundays in September and early October.

One of the things we will be able to report on by then is the outcome of our involvement in a Church of England ‘decarbonisation of churches’ project which was carried out in collaboration with Durham Energy Institute at Durham University. As well as St Brandon’s, St Nicolas Church in the Market Place, St John’s Neville’s Cross, and the Cathedral were all involved, so we will be able to compare our situation with theirs, and begin to look at what action we might take.

Important as that is, the carbon emissions associated with St Brandon’s are only about the same as a typical household – so in combination ‘our’ carbon emissions as a congregation (and village) are many times higher than the church’s. All of us have probably already taken some action to ‘decarbonise’, but in some cases (particularly heating systems and cars) we need to be sure that any ‘investment’ we make doesn’t cost more carbon in its manufacture than it will save in its use.

So, as we focus on climate change in our worship, we will also need to pray for wisdom in how to play our part – as Church and as individuals – in providing a planet that is habitable for our children and grandchildren.

With my best wishes

Geoff

St Brandon's September 2022– Services and readings

Sunday services are at 10:15am every week.

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 in church or online at **8.15am**

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

Evening Prayer is held fortnightly in July on **Thursdays at 7:30pm** via Zoom.

Everyone is welcome, please contact Geoff Moore or Anna

September 4th

Trinity 12

Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings:	First:	Carys Funnell	Deuteronomy 30: 15-end
	Gospel:	David Eltringham	Luke 14: 25-33
	Psalm 1		
		Nick Brooker	Intercessions

Thurs 8th Evening Prayer via Zoom 7.30pm

Sept 11th

Trinity 13

Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings:	First:	Colin Waterman	1 Timothy 1: 12-17
	Gospel:	Jean Hodgson	Luke 15: 1-10
	Psalm 51: 1-11		
		Judith Minto	Intercessions

*** For 18 and 25 Sept and 2 Oct, we will have a sermon series on CREATION. Special readings sheets will be provided. See notice later in the newsletter!**

Sept 18th

The Eternal Creator

Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings*	First:	Linda Waterman	Job 38: 1–11, 16–18
	Gospel:	Nick Brooker	Matthew 6:24–33
	Psalm 104: 1–6, 24, 27–30		
		Colin Waterman	Intercessions

Messy Church 3-5pm

Thurs 22nd

Evening Prayer via Zoom 7.30pm

**Sept 25th *Hope for Creation* Harvest Festival and Climate Sunday
Morning Worship 10.15am**

Readings*	First:	Richard Gooding	Romans 8: 22-25
	Psalm 8		
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions

October 2nd	<i>Christ in Creation</i>	Parish Eucharist 10.15am
Readings*: First:	Jean Merrington	Colossians 1:15-20
Gospel:	Alison Moore	Matthew 8: 23-27
Psalm 89: 5–9, 11–14		
	James Morgan	Intercessions

Sidespersons

Sept 4th David & Fiona Eltringham
 Sept 11th Bonny Bainbridge & Nick Brooker
 Sept 18th Jean Hodgson & Pat Sharples
 Sept 25th Sue Morgan & Josie Armstrong
 Oct 2nd Jane Stout & Iris Waggott

Flowers

Gerry Jennings
 Nick Brooker
 Sheena Murray
 Harvest Festival
 Lynne Hastie

Coffee

Sept 4 th	Catrin Morgan
Sept 11 th	Hillary Moss
Sept 18 th	Annette Johnson
Sept 25 th	Geraldine Jennings
Oct 2 nd	Jean Hodgson

Tech Rota

Bridget & Tom Higon
 Caroline Middleditch
 Caroline Middleditch
 Mike & Hester Higon
 Geoff & Alison Moore

Church Cleaning

September – Team B

Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss

October – Team C

Carol Beeby, Vicki Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

NB Please bring your own vacuum cleaner.

St. Brandon's Church – Grass Cutting Rota 2022

22nd Aug – 4th Sept

David Wilkes, James Morgan

5th – 18th Sept.

Edward Staines, Martin Peacock

19th Sept – 2nd Oct

James Dalton, Nick Brooker

3rd Oct – End

Edward, Michael and Martin

Church Events Notices

On 7 September a Deanery Chapter Meeting is taking place in church between 12:30 and 3:00pm. Also the church will be unavailable all day on Saturday 24 September whilst a Diocesan Event takes place.

On Sunday 9 Oct the church will be in use from 3pm for a talk by Prof Andy Beeby.

Thank you for your understanding.

Janette Foxe

Calling all Brancepeth Bakers

There will be a fundraising event in St Brandon's on 9 October 3pm at which we hope to serve refreshments. See the poster in the porch and further into the newsletter. Prof Andy Beeby (Carol's husband) will provide a fascinating talk on his work on Medieval manuscripts with the proceeds going into our Stonework Project Fund. If you can help by providing a cake for the event please contact either Janette on 07587 225 200 or Carol on 0191 384 7431.

Thank you

Vestry Report:

BAPTISM

Hallie Iris Reed

24 July

FUNERAL

Davida Clare Staines

3 August

MEMORIAL SERVICE

William Currie

18 August

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!



Messy Church at St Brandon's

Sun 18th September 3-5pm

This term we are exploring
the Bible story of David.

Part 1: 'Never too Small!'



ALL WELCOME - do invite friends too

FUTURE MESSY CHURCH DATES THIS YEAR:
16 Oct; 13 Nov; 11 Dec (Christingle)



Come and join the fun.

Activities and stories from the Bible.

Sundays from 11th September

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



CREATION SEASON

As an Eco Church, one of our key priorities at St Brandon's is how we care for the environment in every aspect of our lives. We will spend the last 2 weeks of September and the first week of October focusing on Creation in our morning services and other special events, as you can see in the services information in previous pages.

Whether or not you are a 'regular' you are *most welcome*, and if this is something you care deeply about too, we'd love to hear from you.

CREATION SEASON – dates for your diary:

Wednesday 21st September,

2.00 – 4.30 get creative in the Castle 'Bakehouse', concluding with tea and scone.

Optional preamble:

12.00 Chapel open (for sandwiches, drinks supplied)

1.45 Service

Monday 26th September,

6.00 – 8.30pm second bite at getting creative in the Castle 'Bakehouse',

6.00 starting with soup,

8:30 concluding with Compline in the Chapel.

Come and create something as part of our Creative Season, everyone welcome (yes, we mean everyone!)

Brancepeth Youth Club

September to December 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:

September 11, 25

October 9, 23

November 6, 20

December 4

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

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 13 & 27 Sept 2022 at 11:00

No dates in October

Tuesdays 8 & 22 Nov 2022 at 11:00



For more information please email alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk

Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

Flower Guild appeal for Harvest Festival - Sunday 25th September

The Flower Guild would appreciate donations of fruit and vegetables to enhance our flower displays for the Harvest Festival service. These can be brought to church between 9.30-11.30am on Friday 23rd Sept or given to any member of the Guild. The produce will be donated to DASH after the service.

Thank you for your support.

Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary September 2022

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

A climate theme this month - 'The world is charged with the grandeur of God'

- 1 For those living in war zones
- 2 For those made refugees by war
- 3 Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages
- 4 **Trinity 12 'It will flame out . . .'**
- 5 For school terms starting
- 6 For our government and new Prime Minister
- 7 Quarry Hill, the cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite farm, Goodwell Field
- 8 Castle and Lodge
- 9 For countries, including the UK, who are giving homes to refugees
- 10 Peppermires, Holywell, East Parks, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm
- 11 **Trinity 13 'It gathers to a greatness . . .'**
- 12 For people mourning the death of those they love
- 13 Stockley Lane, Village South,
- 14 **Holy Cross Day** Give thanks for the mystery of the cross, somehow holding the world.
- 15 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm
- 16 Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View
- 17 **Hildegard of Bingen** For creative women in leadership
- 18 **Trinity 14 Climate fortnight begins ' . . nature is never spent'**
- For Messy Church today
- 19 For preparations for COP27 in Egypt
- 20 Goodwell Lea
- 21 **St Matthew** Give thanks for those whose writings inspire us in our faith
- 22 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood
- 23 Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, Springwell Farm, South Brandon Farm, Brawns Den
- 24 Whitworth Lane, Black House
- 25 **Trinity 15 Climate Sunday and Harvest 'There lives the dearest freshness deep down things'**
- 26 For developed world governments to take bold steps towards sustainability
- 27 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry Garth
- 28 Durham Rd and the Forge
- 29 **St Michael and All Angels** Give thanks for forces and powers for good, visible or not
- 30 For developing world governments to have the resources to protect their countries in climate change

(Sunday quotations from 'God's Grandeur' by Gerard Manley Hopkins)

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

St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth



‘Shining light on medieval manuscripts’

Modern science meets medieval art

A presentation by Professor
Andrew Beeby
durham university

Sunday 9th October 2022 at 3pm

Admission £10 at the door.
(cash only)

In aid of St. Brandon's Stonework Project
To find out more go to www.stbrandons.org.uk

A commonly asked question is ‘what materials were used to create medieval manuscripts’ ? Although a number of materials were known to be used as pigments – coloured materials used to make the paints employed in the books - relatively few books had been analysed using scientific methods to unequivocally identify the materials used. Historically pigments were identified on the basis of their colour or appearance, a method that is demonstrably unreliable.

At Durham University a team of scientist and historians, Team Pigment, began a collaborative project to scientifically examine the pigments used in medieval manuscripts, dating from the earliest Insular Gospels through to the start of printed books in the 16th century. We have developed mobile instrumentation that allows us to visit libraries across the country and analyse the pigments in a book in a non-invasive and non-damaging way. These rely upon spectroscopy – literally shining light onto the page and looking at the light which is reflected back.

Remember Boyan? Wish to help one Ukrainian?

This is a message from Geoff and Carolyn Knott who used to live at 2 Rectory Cottage. For many years, Carolyn used to organise the Boyan Ensemble's visit to Brancepeth, which was part of their annual national tour.

The last time Boyan were able to tour the UK was 2015. No doubt many of you have thought about them from time to time. Remember also the wonderful times they gave hosts in the village hall after the concert!

Since 24 February 2022 Ukraine, and also the choir members who gave such heart-stirring performances, first in the castle and later in the church, won't have been far from your minds. Carolyn and I have been in daily contact with two choir members since the day of the invasion. Leonid Koberskiy and Stanislav Kolotov share an apartment in Kyiv. We support them morally but also financially as they now have no income.

What we are about to ask is - if you feel you would like to provide short term help for one person in Ukraine, Leonid's mother, then we can help you, together with others, to do that.

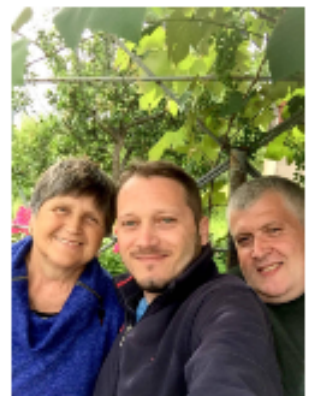
Leonid's mother, Lyudmila, lives in western Ukraine. She is widowed and receives a small pension but until this year, Leonid and his sister Larisa have helped her pay for her gas heating during the winter months. Leonid is unemployed now and Larisa's very successful mushroom farming business has been destroyed by the war. They cannot help her this year.

Our plan would be to provide the opportunity for a group of people to donate whatever they wish/can afford monthly, for 6 months from October 2022 to March 2023. We realise that you only have the memory of Boyan to connect you with Leonid's mother's temporary need, but we assure you that by making a small monthly commitment, for a limited period, there will be huge relief for Lyudmila and of course Leonid and the rest of the family. Existing money transfers to Leonid and Stanislav are secure and we receive instant confirmation of their receipt, with no deductions from the amount sent. You can be assured therefore that Lyudmila would receive every penny of your donation. The war continues to devastate lives and livelihoods.

If you would like to help with whatever amount you wish and want to know more, please ring Geoff on **07784 896751** or email **geoff@hallcourt.uk**.



Leonid playing accordion in Brancepeth village hall



Leonid's mother Lyudmila, Stanislav, and Leonid

Some readers of Geoff's article may be wondering what has been happening in the Diocese since the original appeal for help from Ukraine. The following extract from the Diocesan newsletter may provide answers to some of your questions and provide links to organisations helping in other ways.

Message on behalf of the Revd Joanne Thorns, North East Churches Acting Together and Val Barron, Communities Together Durham acting on behalf of the Diocese of Durham

There is still a huge need for people willing to host those fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine and our efforts to support those affected are ongoing. We have committed to helping to bring refugees to the UK by taking part in Communities for Ukraine. This is a refugee sponsorship programme in partnership with Citizens UK and linked to the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme. By being part of this we can better match refugees with host sponsors and the process supports Ukrainians in their application process. There are a large number of people who have applied and are now seeking a host family. If you are interested, complete the form. We share the details on your form with Citizens UK who help with the matching process. This involves each party looking at each other's details then speaking online in advance of decision making (with a third-party present for safeguarding purposes). If the match is agreed the host, then applies through the Homes for Ukraine portal (if they haven't already applied). You can find information about the Citizens' scheme and how it is working with partners to provide safe, relational matching between refugees and hosts, along with ongoing support, in Citizens UK's Communities for Ukraine scheme. If after reading the information you are interested in becoming a host, please register your interest by completing the form. Please note: Completing this form does not provide a guarantee that you will be matched and does not commit you to accepting a guest or guests. Local Authority partners will assess the suitability of any accommodation being offered. For more information contact: regionalofficer@necat.co.uk or val.barron@communitiestogetherdurham.org.uk

The link to the form along with other information is available on the diocesan website www.durhamdiocese.org in the 'support for your role' section. We continue to offer a drop in online on Monday evenings from 6 - 7pm for hosts or those interested in hosting who want more information. Contact regionalofficer@necat.co.uk for a link.

Clare Staines

15th January 1951 - 17th July 2022

Davida Clare Shannon (she always hated her first name which was a family offering from her father's side of the family) was born in Edinburgh, the third child of Moira and Bill Shannon. Such are the vagaries of existence that she would not have been born at all were it not for the death of her elder brother from a birth condition which has now been mercifully consigned to the history books. Until leaving for university she lived within a stone's throw of the Firth of Forth where she spent a happy if rebellious childhood. Such was her love of the place that she willed for her ashes to be scattered in the Forth.

At 18 she went up to university in Newcastle to study physiotherapy which she practised until her retirement at the age of 58. There she met Edward, a medical student - eventually. He had always fancied this tall blonde girl walking the corridors of the Royal Victoria Infirmary but she just never seemed to notice him. At that time she was very short sighted but too proud to wear glasses so she really had not seen him. It took some matchmaking by some mutual friends to get them together and they married in Edinburgh on 23rd September 1978 after a short engagement. They had already bought their marital home-to-be in Brancepeth at number 5 Foxes Row and three years later moved to number 1.

Clare enjoyed village life but her first priority was always her family with Helen born in 1980, Chris in 1982 and Fiona in 1987. She was never at the forefront of village activities but could always be relied upon if provisions were required for an event. Her one and only contribution as an actor was a memorable performance as the Pink Panther in one of the village shows. Her love of family was extended further with the birth of six grandchildren on whom she doted. She was never happier than when the whole extended family descended on Hull's Close.

Clare will always be remembered for her sporting prowess. She was a lifelong tennis player and passed on that love to her children. Their ability soon surpassed their father's and he was relegated to being ballboy in family tennis matches. The tennis mantle has now been taken up by Sarah, Helen's elder child. She was a competent skier. On retirement she took up rowing and joined Durham Amateur Rowing Club. This was a cause of some surprise to Edward as she had always professed a dislike of the cold and was not keen on getting wet. But she persisted and formed some firm friendships at the club.

Sadly, Clare was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in early June 2022 and the condition was terminal at diagnosis. She bore the diagnosis and palliative treatment with acceptance and stoicism. Even at this stage she was clear with instructions. She was to die at home, she was never to be put in nettie knickers and her life was to be celebrated with a party where Bollinger champagne had to be served. Edward is proud to report that all three conditions were met.





Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

Catch-up on news, meet new people ...everyone is welcome!



Can you help on the coffee morning rota?

Please contact Martyn or Christine Jones on 0191 378 9297

Coffee Morning Rota

24th Aug – Christine Jones & Sheena Murray

31st Aug – Joan Taylor & Linda Larnach

7th Sept – Vivienne Lowe & Janiece Spence

14th Sept – Martyn Jones & Christine Jones

21st Sept – Margot Harrison & Val Gibbons

28th Sept – Sheena Murray & Linda Larnach

(Please contact Martyn or Christine - 0191 378 9297 - if you need to swap your rota date.
Thank you).

Book Club

2 September - at Fiona Eltringham's house, 5 Stockley House Farm. The book to read is
"Now we shall be Entirely Free" by Andrew Miller.

All dates are Fridays and the usual time of 7.30 p.m.

The October date will be Friday 7th Oct at the home of Dawn & Nick Ellis, 24 Goodwell Lea
and the book is 'The Noise of Time' by Julian Barnes.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons



Bill Currie
1940 – 2022

Bill lived a life of kindness and care, friendly and polite to all – a true gentleman who was held with fond regard in Brancepeth village where he lived with his wife Kath for 20 years. He lived a humble and gentle life of service and exploration. Being absorbed in nature was where he was most content and his love of walking took him on many expeditions. From early childhood in Leeds the family would set forth youth hostelling, walking and climbing. Roped together and using ice axes they ascended Snowdon in January and the Matterhorn Switzerland when Bill was 14. Whilst studying for his first degree in Agriculture, Leeds, he would hop on his motorbike and sidecar and adventure with other student friends in the Cairngorms (his favourite place in the world) and the lake district. After Leeds university, Bill attended Dick Veterinary collage in Edinburgh where the mountains were even closer. Graduating at 27 he found work helping with the Foot & mouth outbreak in Shropshire before moving to Cockermouth to work in veterinary practice and meeting Kath who he married in 1971. Bill loved the Cumbrian farmers and their animals especially cattle. What a contrast to move from his beloved mountains to Halesworth, Suffolk in 1979. Scratches and bites from pets increased and bruises and kicks from farm animals decreased as the work shifted more towards the surgery, being a more agricultural area. Bills adventuring continued with 35 years of caravan holidaying with Kath and later after Kath s breast cancer, holidays to many countries. Moving to Brancepeth to be closer to his daughters (Beth) family brought Bill joy sharing his love of nature with his grandchildren, helping the family on their small holding and going on short and long distant walks together. He loved the community spirit of Brancepeth and contributed by cleaning the church, scything the grave yard, baking for the coffee morning lending out his many books. The church community in Brancepeth was his spiritual home. His faith was deep, gentle and humble with the Christian values of kindness and generosity emanating from his heart. He Continues to live in service today with his body being used for teaching medical students at Leeds university. Kath and Beth are extremely grateful for all the cards, flowers, support and providing a wonderful buffet in the village hall. £350 was raised at the service held on the 18th August for St. Cuthbert hospice where Bill spent the last leg of his journey. A big THANK YOU to each of you.



Village Hall - Regular Weekly Activities

Please refer to the back page for group contact details. For casual ad-hoc bookings including meetings, snooker, badminton, soft-tennis & table-tennis please contact:

Jo - 07876 [624626 - Brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:624626-Brancepethca@gmail.com)

<u>Group/Activity</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Art Group	Tuesday	7-9pm
Badminton	Thursday	7:30-9:30pm
Coffee Morning	Wednesday	10:30-11:30am
Capoeira (Fitness Class)	Sunday	10-11:30am
Knit & Natter	Monday (fortnightly)	2-4pm
Snooker	Monday	7-10pm
Tai Chi	Wednesday	9:30-10:30am
Yoga	Monday	7:30-9pm
St Brandon's Church Youth Group	Sunday (fortnightly)	6-8pm



Capoeira Classes

(a mix of fitness, martial arts & dance)

Sunday Mornings, Village Hall

10am - 11:30am (starting from 4th September)

All fitness levels welcome ...suitable for children (6+ years) and adults.

Please contact Will for further information: 07891 607 839 or enechorion@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – September 2022

Cricket Field

We are delighted to announce that we are finally moving towards completion of the five-year lease for the cricket field. We are hoping to have a copy ready for signature shortly.

We have been able to enjoy continued access to the field even though the original lease expired in March 2018. The new lease, backdated to the original renewal date, regularises that position and means that we have had uninterrupted access to the field since 2008.

We now need to decide what course of action we should take regarding the future of the field after the new lease expires in March 2023. There are a number of options we can explore but we need to know your views before we make any decisions. With that in mind, we will be sending a short questionnaire to every resident in the Parish this Autumn. This is your chance to tell us what you think. Your views are very important to us so we would be grateful if as many residents as possible complete and return their questionnaires to us. We would also welcome the views of young people in your household.

Once your views have been collected and collated, we will hold an open meeting in the Village Hall to share the results and put forward a proposed plan of action.

Volunteers Wanted - Brancepeth in Bloom

We have been able to obtain funding to provide flower boxes for the north (Wolsingham Rd) east and west (A690) entry points to the village. We hope that the boxes will help to remind drivers to slow down as they approach. The flower boxes, along with our intention to explore the possibility of planting more daffodil bulbs, are part of our longer term aim of improving the overall appearance of the village. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Hassall.

Vacancy

The Parish Council currently has a vacancy. If you enjoy working as part of a small team and are willing to take on responsibility for a particular aspect of village life, you might be just the person we need. If you would like to know more, please contact the Chair of the PC (Hassall Balshen) or any member of the Parish Council for an informal chat.

Garden Club

Annual Show: 17th of September

The Annual Village Show will be back this year on 17th September in the Village Hall. The sections and classes will be as in previous years, except in the Photography Section, where only one photo per class will be allowed from each entrant.

We are hoping to correspond with those interested in contributing to the Annual Show via email so if you have not provided an email address in the past, an email to Bea would be appreciated. We will of course provide printed copies of the schedule and other correspondence for people who prefer this.

New members welcome at any time!

Contact Bea on 07714764203 or by email be_arnab@ymail.com for any further information.

The Marathon and Me

- Many thanks to all who have sponsored me to run the London Marathon in aid of the wonderful Children's Society. Your generosity has been overwhelming. I had to raise over £2,000 and between us we have done that. Whoop whoop.

However I have a feeling that there is still a little space at the bottom of the bag for donations from those who have not yet given. Just in case this is the link to my giving page-

www.justgiving.com/Fiona-Eltringham1

The run is on October 2nd so this is the last shout, you'll be pleased to know! Please spare me a thought on that day.

- And while I have your attention, I confess to only recently discovering the Children's Society charity shop in North Road. Please support it either by buying or taking them your no longer loved goods.

Fiona Eltringham

Great North Air Ambulance

Collections will be accepted during Sat/Sun the 24th and 25th September at 2 Foxes' Row. Please ring 3780707 beforehand so that I can open the garage door. Bags are available at any time.

1 bag - all clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, bedlinen, towels, curtains.

Separate bag – books, CDs and DVDs

Brancepeth Archive

"With records stored of deeds long since forgot"
by William Shakespeare



The Brancepeth Archive, in its new home in Brancepeth Castle, is at last ready to receive visitors and enquiries. There's still work to do but we can now welcome anyone interested in local and family history. It contains documents, photographs, maps, artefacts and other records relating to the history of the ancient parish of Brancepeth.

For those wishing to pursue family history, the room offers access to Ancestry and Find My Past - two of the main family research websites.

It is open to visitors on the first Saturday morning of every month (10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.) and appointments can be made to visit at other times. Enquiries are welcomed.

Contact via e-mail at brancepeth.archive@outlook.com

(Supported by the Skinners' Company Lady Neville Charity, that awards small grants to local roots organisations, by the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust, the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and several individuals.)

RECORDING HOW BRANCEPETH COPEd WITH THE PANDEMIC

AN APPEAL FOR PHOTOS

Do you have any photos of events, activities, posters etc. linked with how Brancepeth coped and which were taken between 10th March 2020 and 5th June 2022?

If so, would you be willing to let the Archive and History Group take a copy for the project? Any offerings will be gratefully received and will be archived or might be displayed in an exhibition. Please pass them to or contact Richard Jackson (rjpinetops@icloud.com) (0191 378 3271) or Vivienne Lowe 17vivienne@gmail.com (0191 378 0974)

Many thanks.

**"THE LIFE AND WORK OF THOMAS WRIGHT
of Byers Green - - "a man of many parts"
an illustrated talk by David Hughes
Friday 14th October 2022 in Brancepeth Village Hall
7.15 p.m. for prompt 7.30p.m. start
Organised by Brancepeth Archive and History Group
ADMISSION - BAHG MEMBERS - free
Non-members very welcome - £3.00**

David Hughes has provided a brief description of Thomas Wright to whet your appetites!!

"Thomas Wright was born in rather humble circumstances in the small town of Byers Green in County Durham. Expelled from full time education because of an apparent speech impediment, he rose to prominence by virtue of a lively imagination and a lot of hard work. He enjoyed the support and admiration of the highest in the land - even the King and the Prince of Wales were patrons. Wright was a genuine polymath. An inspirational landscaper gardener, an antiquarian, a skilled engraver, a map maker and mathematician. These days, he's best remembered for his pioneering work in Cosmology - he was the first to realise that the Milky Way is actually the arms of an enormous spiral galaxy and we're embedded within it. More so, many of the little fuzzy patches of light in the sky, then only just visible in the telescopes of the day, are actually galaxies like our own. Wright was one of the first to speculate about planets circulating distant stars and if those planets were inhabited by lifeforms like ourselves."

Enquiries to Vivienne Lowe 0191 378 0974

Gertrude Bell, The Desert Queen

Thursday, 22nd Sept at 2.00pm in the Golf Club Dining Room

Having thoroughly enjoyed Anthony Atkinson's talk last year on the life of Mary Eleanor Bowes the Brancepeth Ladies Club are pleased to say that he is now going to tell us about Gertrude Bell, an adventurer, archaeologist, cartographer, historian, linguist, mountaineer and writer as well as an Intelligence Officer in The First World War and friend of Lawrence of Arabia. As usual, guests are very welcome, both ladies and gentlemen. £3 for members and £5 for guests (includes refreshments)

Greetings and an Update from Robert and Sally Scott-Biggs

Twenty one weeks after having left Durham we have finally moved into our extensively renovated flat in Eastbourne. At times it has seemed a very long and exhausting process organising the extensive work necessary. However during this time we have felt very privileged and "blessed" to live temporarily in an idyllic part of rural East Sussex and be part of a small but welcoming village church. Our new Eastbourne home is conveniently situated within easy walking distance of the town centre and sea front with cafes, two theatres and Devonshire Park tennis very close at hand.

As a new chapter opens up for us, the happy memories of St Brandon's, not to mention the aroma and taste of bacon rolls will remain. It also goes without saying that if anyone finds themselves in this part of "God's creation" do look us up.

Robert & Sally

RSB 07968 288226

SSB 07816 992525

Christmas Show – Advance Notice

The Christmas Show will be on Saturday 3rd December. We hope that all past performers will put on an act, and would love to see some new faces. Please put the date in your diary [audience and cast] Acts should be 3-5 minutes long. The dress rehearsal will be on Sunday 27th November at times to be arranged with you

Rosemary Monument mwmonument@gmail.com

Martin Peacock

Jazz Evening at St Brandon's
Featuring
The Steve Taylor Band with Rachel Lunney
&
The Take Five Singers

Saturday 5th November
7pm

Join us for a sophisticated evening of Jazz, good food and great company.

See the church transformed into a Candlelit Jazz Cafe

Delicious food provided by the renowned
Boldon Farmhouse Company

Bring your own drinks and help Steve Taylor celebrate a very special birthdaywhat a legend he is!!!!
(Please no gifts)

Tickets £20 available from
Josie Armstrong 0788 22 33 118
Vicky Jackson 07500 970712
djacksonsfarming@outlook.com

Proceeds to St Brandons Stonework Project

Memorial Walk for Bill Currie

On Sunday 25th September there will be a memorial walk from 4pm -5pm starting from the old station car park and progressing round up to Little White Farm and back again. All welcome.

Dates for the Diary:-

Sept	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village hall
Sept	Mondays	-	Yoga, from 19th Sept, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sept	Mondays	-	Knit and Natter 12th & 26th, Village Hall 2 - 4 pm.
Sept	Tuesdays	-	Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hall
Sept	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Sept	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Sept	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sept	Sundays	-	Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Sept	Sundays	-	Youth Club, 11th & 25th 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
Sept	2nd	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 5 Stockley House Farm
Sept	17th	Sat	- Garden Club Annual Show, 2.00pm, Village Hall
Sept	22nd	Thurs	- Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club
Sept	25th	Sun	Harvest Festival, 10.15am, Church
Sept	25th	Sun	- Memorial walk for Bill Currie, 4pm – 5pm, old station car park
Oct	7th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 24 Goodwell Lea
Oct	14th	Fri	- Archive & History Group Talk, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Oct	16th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Nov	5th	Sat	Jazz Evening, 7.00pm, Church
Dec	3rd	Sat	Christmas Show, Village Hall

Photos

Front cover - © Sue Morgan – *The Nesfield Tomb, redesigned and planted up by Alison Young*

Inside front cover – © Anna Brooker-Harvest poster.

Inside back cover – ©Josie Armstrong – *Steve Taylor, Rachel Lunney & Rick Simpson; part of the Steve Taylor Band performing on 5th November.*

Back cover – © Anna Brooker – *Deborah Hodge with Bishop Paul and supporters following her ordination on July 2nd.*

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

Newsletter entries no later than September 18th.

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

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

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

Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Martyn Jones, 32 Goodwell Lea (3789297)
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)
Art Group	Jeanette Metcalfe, (0191 3781646)
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)
Mary Coffield – Deputy chair (tel: 3780024; email: mary.coffield@googlemail.com)
Nick Ellis (tel: 3782939; email: n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)
Gillian Smellie, Email: gillian@smellie.com
Thomas Hobbs, Email: tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk
Michael Stephenson, Email: stephenson15@me.com
Philip Davison, Email: philipdavison000@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

County Councillors: olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk
 fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk
 www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk



