

# St Brandon's Church

## Brancepeth



## Newsletter: December 2022

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

# Christingle



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**3-5pm in church**

*make your own* Christingles and advent crafts

**Christingle service starts 4pm    tea together**

ALL WELCOME TO THIS CANDLELIT SERVICE

- whether or not you usually attend Messy Church

## ADVENT WINDOWS IN BRANCEPETH

After the success of last year's Advent Windows around the village, everyone is invited to make a display in their street-facing window from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Thank you for taking part as we prepare for Christmas as a community.

*We hope to include some photos in the next issue!*



## CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

*organised for local families by Langley Moor Salvation Army*

St Brandon's will be holding a collection for this appeal on

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

Please bring unwrapped gifts to the morning service or drop them at church about 11.30am.

*Gifts for children and adults, large boxes/tins of sweets and biscuits are all most welcome.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*



## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or <a href="mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk">rector@stbrandon.org.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:	David Eltringham (07779938611) James Morgan (4476520)
Secretary	Carol Beeby (3847431), (07592 975002)
Treasurer	Mike Higon – 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	Alison Hobbs (378 9670), Sue Hope, Alison Moore (373 5674).
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	Carol Beeby, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Richard Gooding, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, 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>

***Newsletter entries no later than December 15th please.***

***This is due to Christmas closing dates at the printers.***

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

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please contact Hester Higon on [hesterhigon@phonecoop.coop](mailto:hesterhigon@phonecoop.coop).

Dear Friends

### ***Giving... thanks***

A highlight of Christmas as a child was seeing presents appear under the tree, checking labels, squeezing and shaking as I tried to guess the contents. One of the best gifts I remember was from a family friend: a set of poster paints in little jars, which I treasured for years. But I also remember the frustration on Boxing Day when told not to start painting yet: I had to write a thank you letter first!

Being made to say 'thank you' is a good training for life, however dutiful or formulaic the words used. For when we don't say thank you, we risk becoming arrogant, self-centred or rude, becoming less than fully human, in fact. I've just been interrupted in writing this by a colleague who phoned to say 'thank you' for help offered during a challenging time in her ministry and am touched that she made time to do this.

Thanksgiving is mentioned countless times in the Bible, especially in the psalms, which capture so much of life's ups and downs. Psalm 100 says *enter his gates with thanksgiving*, and Psalm 50 tells us *offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving*. Jeremy Taylor advises

*From David learn to give thanks for everything. Every furrow in the book of Psalms is sown with the seeds of thanksgiving.*

This isn't only about saying thank you, but about our whole approach to God, others and all of life.

In this season of giving and receiving, let's consciously practise gratitude, not just for the gifts we may receive but for the many everyday blessings we enjoy. As we sow the seeds of thanksgiving in our homes, families, church and community, so we'll see new shoots of encouragement and generosity begin to grow...

Talking of generosity, please remember the yellow food bank at the back of church: let's try to fill it regularly to support local families in these harsh economic times. Please also support the Salvation Army in Langley Moor with their Christmas Present appeal on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec- details in this newsletter. Thank you.

And as we approach Christmas with thankful hearts, may we appreciate and welcome afresh the greatest gift of all, the baby born to be our Saviour. We will have many opportunities to gather and give thanks for the birth of Jesus in the next few weeks, including the Christingle Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December and the Carol Service a week later on 18<sup>th</sup>. Details of Christmas services are in the enclosed card: you are welcome to them all.

With all good wishes for a happy and thankful Christmas and for God's blessing now and in the New Year.

*Anna*

Anna Brooker

Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church

## St Brandon's December 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/ online at **8.15am**  
and there is a **Midday Eucharist** in Brancepeth Castle Chapel at **12noon**.*

***Evening Prayer for Advent***  
***is on alternate Thursdays of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom.***  
*Everyone is welcome, please contact Geoff Moore or Anna*

*Please phone or email for further details*

<b>Nov 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent 1</b>		
	First:	Jean Merrington	Isaiah 2: 1-5
	Gospel:	Colin Waterman	Matthew 24: 36-44
	Psalm 122		
		Alison Moore	Intercessions
<b>Thurs Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer for Advent 7.30pm</b>		
<b>Dec 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent 2</b>		
	First:	Alison Moore	Isaiah 11: 1-10
	Gospel:	Linda Waterman	Matthew 3: 1-12
	Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19		
		Emily Bagg	Intercessions
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent 3</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
		<b><i>with Licensing of Revd Alison Hobbs by the Bishop of Durham</i></b>	
Readings:	First:	Edward Staines	Isaiah 35: 1-10
	Gospel:	Hester Higon	Matthew 11: 2-11
	(Psalm 146: 4-10) <i>if required</i>		
		Community of the Well	Intercessions
(please see the related article after the lists and rotas)			
	<b>Messy Church Christingle Service 3.00pm</b>		
	<i>followed by refreshments</i>		
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer for Advent 7.30pm</b>		



**Sun Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Advent 4****Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings:	First:	Gillian Smellie	Isaiah 7: 10-16
	Gospel:	Mike Higton	Matthew 1: 18- end
	Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20		
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions

**Carol Service 6.30pm***Readings and readers as arranged***Sat Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve****Crib Service by Candlelight 5pm****Midnight Communion 11.30 pm**

Readings:	First:	James Morgan	Isaiah 9: 2-7
	Gospel:	Sue Morgan	John 1: 1-14
	Psalm 98		
		Nick Brooker	Intercessions

**Sun Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day****All Age Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings	First:	Steve Hodgson	Isaiah 52:7-10
	Gospel:	Tom Hobbs	Luke 2: 8-20
		TBA	Intercessions

**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>****Christmas 2****Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

First:	Wilfred Foxe	Numbers 6: 22-end
Gospel:	Ken Howe	Luke 2: 15-21
Psalm 8		
	David Eltringham	Intercessions

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>****Epiphany****Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

First:	Carys Funnell	Isaiah 60: 1-6
Gospel:	David Eltringham	Matthew 2: 1-12
Psalm 72		
	TBA	Intercessions

**Messy Church Party      3 - 5pm**

## Sidespersons

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout & Pat Sharples  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Jane Stout  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> David & Fiona Eltringham  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> (Carol Service) Jean Hodgson & Josie Armstrong  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> (5pm Crib Service) Jeanette Metcalfe  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> (Midnight) Sue Morgan & Nick Brooker  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan & Nick Brooker  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Sharples & Iris Waggott  
Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Annette Johnson & Bonny Bainbridge

## Flowers

Advent 2  
Advent 3  
Advent 4  
  
Guild  
Epiphany  
Denise Jackson

## Coffee

Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Johnson
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Metcalfe
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> (Carol Service)	
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup> (Midnight Communion 11.30pm)	
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	No coffee
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jane Stout
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Moore

## Tech Rota

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

## Church Cleaning

*December – Team A*

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

*January – Team B*

Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss

NB Please bring your own vacuum cleaner.

## Events News

**3 December: Darlington Deanery Event the church will be unavailable from 9am to 1pm.**

**Thank you for your understanding**

**Janette**

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

**Please tell Alison Moore of the Prayer Team on 0191 373 5674/07890 733757 or email [moorealisonm21@gmail.com](mailto:moorealisonm21@gmail.com)**

# COMMUNITY of the WELL



I wonder if the first image that comes to your mind is that this is something related to being 'well' versus being 'un-well'? Or something to do with a well for water?

Both are correct to some extent: the title was inspired by the bible story about the Samaritan woman who offers Jesus a drink of water when they encounter each other at a well, and in particular, a wonderful sculpture depicting this image at Chester Cathedral. The aim of this new venture has many parallels with that story, the outcome of which was that the Samaritan woman was made 'well' by the encounter: 'wellness' is a whole body/mind/spirit state.

At the moment, the Community of the Well comprises four persons: Alison Hobbs, Deborah Hodge, Julia MacDonald and Judith Minto, who have been in prayer and conversation about this for a few years. We have now reached the stage where the diocese are formally recognising the venture by licensing (literally, 'permitting') Alison to operate in the role of 'Director of the Community of the Well' alongside being 'Associate Minister at St Brandon's'. This is necessary because the Community of the Well will operate with a Christian message under the Church of England's banner, so recognition and compliance naturally have to go hand-in-hand. It is also necessary because it is an independent venture based at the castle, alongside but not part of, St Brandon's.

Since September 2018 we have been opening the castle chapel for worship on weekdays, and increasing the awareness of visitors to opportunities for quiet and spiritual encounter that the chapel and other spaces offer. We can host a small number of residential guests, or larger groups for shorter periods, providing prayerful spaces or activities for peoples' own encounters with one another, with themselves, with God; for an hour, a day or a week. Particularly, we see creative, hands-on activities, and spiritual development as potential offerings. Most of all, we aim to bring God's blessing to, and be blessed by, what evolves here.

Alison Hobbs





Come and join the fun.

Activities and stories from the Bible.

Sundays during term time

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

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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 8 & 22 Nov 2022 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 6 & 20 Dec 2022 at 11:00

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

Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

## Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary December 2022

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

**'Taking our humanity in your loving freedom,  
you rescued our lost earth and filled the world with joy'**

1 To those who dread the Christmas season, give patience and unexpected joys  
2 Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages  
3 Give thanks for the community spirit and fun of the Village Show tonight

**4 Advent 2 'Taking our humanity' May we notice the Spirit's presence around us**

5 For our planet in the climate crisis, for the political will to plan for the long term

**6 St Nicholas' day May we all become more generous**

7 Quarry Hill, the cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite farm, Goodwell Field

8 Castle and Lodge

9 Peppermires, Holywell, East Parks, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm

10 The Christingle service takes place tomorrow. Pray for a spirit of awe and wonder.

**11 Advent 3 'You rescued our lost earth' Give thanks for the ministry of Alison Hobbs in church, village and castle, as Bishop Paul visits today.**

12 For children and young people as they approach the end of a long term

13 Stockley Lane, Village South

14 For the work of our local foodbanks, that they will receive the resources they need

15 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm

16 Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View

17 For the Ukraine crisis, that some way to end it will soon be agreed

**18 Advent 4 'and filled the world with joy' May all at the Carol Service experience joy**

19 For staff in schools and colleges, for refreshment amidst the Christmas preparations

20 Goodwell Lea

21 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood

22 For family relationships over Christmas

23 Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, Springwell Farm, South Brandon Farm,  
Brawns Den

24 Whitworth Lane, Black House

**25 Christmas Day For peace on earth**

26 Boxing Day Give thanks for those who love us

27 Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry  
Garth

28 **Holy Innocents Day** Pray for children who are unsafe

29 Durham Rd and the Forge

30 For all whose lives have been damaged by war during this year

31 **New Year's Eve** Pray for hope and love to inspire us as we go into 2023

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

## Brancepeth Youth Club

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. Our final meeting this term is on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### *Leaders*

Geoff Moore

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

Martin Peacock

07503 242074



## Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

7th December	Martyn and Christine
14th December	Vivienne and Janiece
21st December	No Coffee Morning
28th December	No Coffee Morning
4th January	Sheena and Rosemary
11th January	Margot and Val
18th January	Joan and Linda
25th January	Martyn and Christine

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

## 4 December: Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

This Christmas St Brandon's is once again helping the Salvation Army in their work supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. The gifts are given to struggling families who have little hope of managing alone. Please support our commitment to this work by donating new unwrapped gifts. Suggestions are games, toiletries, footballs, hair clips, art and craft supplies, cars, dolls, gift sets for older children, stationery etc. Please bring your gifts to church on 4 December either to the service or leave them in church later that day. If you need your gifts collecting please call Janette on 07587 225 200.

Thank you

Janette Foxe

## County Durham Foodbank

As always many thanks for your donations to the foodbank.

The County Durham Foodbank has recently seen a month-by-month increase in the numbers needing support. The cost of living payments for those on benefits, and the energy payments are helping. Without those payments, the numbers needing the foodbank would have increased dramatically. However, there are now more working families coming who can no longer make their finances balance. As they are not on benefits, they don't receive the cost of living payments.

Although people are still being incredibly generous, donations are not growing in line with demand, which means that the Foodbank is having to purchase wholesale items running low. From the 1-3 December the Foodbank is having their Christmas food collection at seven of the large Tescos : Annfield Plain, Bishop Auckland, Consett, Chester-Le-Street, Durham Gilesgate, Langley Moor, Newton Aycliffe.

They need as many volunteers as possible to support these collections in two hour shifts. When volunteers are present to collect the donations, we are advised that they collect three times more food than if they're unmanned. If you, or any friends, could help out for a couple of hours, that would make a huge difference. It would be really good if some people from Brancepeth could contact Lindsey (**Tel no. 0191 303 8623 or email [lindsey@durhamcp.org.uk](mailto:lindsey@durhamcp.org.uk)**) in the foodbank office and let her know the date(s), store and times that you can help.

David and Fiona Eltringham

## SHOEBOX APPEAL 2021

**A huge thank you to everyone who supported  
the**

### **2021 Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal.**

36 wonderful boxes and several bags of colourful hand-knitted hats, gloves and scarves (thank you, Knit and Knatter Group!) are now on their way to families in Eastern Europe where they will bring joy and hope at Christmas.



*If you'd like to help organise next year's appeal, please get in touch.*

Nick Brooker

### **Steve Taylor's 90th birthday**

On Saturday 5 November, St Brandon's was transformed into a jazz club and welcomed Steve Taylor's jazz band and singers to celebrate his 90th birthday. The party was treated to a wide range of jazz standards, arranged for the ensemble by Steve himself with Rachel Lunney (formerly of this parish) leading the vocals and Steve on the piano. The evening was a wonderful celebration of Steve's musical career summed up by Jean Merrington in a ditty specially written for the occasion. Many thanks also go to Josie Armstrong and Victoria Jackson for their seamless organisation of the event. Steve generously took the opportunity to raise over £1,000 towards the costs of the church stonework repair project for which St Brandon's are very grateful, and we all wish him many more years of music making for the future.

James Morgan.

(See back page for photos!)

### Brancepeth Ladies - Christmas Party

This will be held at 2.00pm on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December in the Golf Club dining room. The charge of £3.50 for members and £5 for guests will cover tea/coffee and festive nibbles and treats. All other drinks can be purchased from the bar.

Remember the competition is to create your very own Swedish Tomte

# **BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE AND HISTORY GROUP**

## **The Archives Group Christmas Get together**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7.30 p.m. in Brancepeth Village Hall –**

Drinks, nibbles, and the chance to socialise. Four members will also be giving brief illustrated presentations about some aspects of local history. No admission charge for members. Non-members who are interested in local history and might be thinking of joining the Group, will be very welcome (at a small charge of £3 towards overheads). For Catering purposes, please let Vivienne Lowe know if you hope to come along Tel: 0191 3780974.

### **Membership subscriptions for 2023**

These will fall due soon; £5.00 per person if you live in the Parish. If you live outside the Parish, we have to ask you to join the Brancepeth Community Association as well (£5.00 for those in receipt of state pension, £7.50 for others). If you would like to join, or renew your membership, you can do so during the evening or contact Vivienne Lowe on 0191 378 0974.

### **BRANCEPETH CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE**

Look on the Brancepeth BCA website and follow the Archive and History link to examples, or contact Vivienne on 0191 378 0974

### **THE 1921 CENSUS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVE ROOM**

Interested in tracing your family history, or the history of your house?

The Archive Room subscribes to Ancestry and Find My Past – two sites that offer invaluable records. The 1921 Census came online with Find My Past earlier this year – with a high charge for every individual search! **The Archive Room has now added access to this Census to its subscription until March 2023 and so is able to offer people the opportunity to search free of charge although a small donation towards the subscription costs is always welcome!**

If you would like to look something up, we are open on the first Saturday of each month 9.00– 13.00 or you can e-mail us to arrange another time to visit.

[brancepeth.archive@outlook.com](mailto:brancepeth.archive@outlook.com)

If **Classic cars** are your interest, the Archive holds a large and very fine collection of books on this subject.

## THE VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPH

Thank you to everyone who came along for the Village Photograph.

Since the day, a number of people who were unable to take part have been in touch and have asked if, somehow, they could be included. This would be very useful because it would also help complete the village records post pandemic.

If you would still like to be included, we need a “head and shoulders” photo (or even a “selfie”), together with the names of the person(s) in the photo and we will include them as insets on the original picture.

Electronic (i.e. Jpeg) pictures would be best but if you only have a hard copy, we can still scan and use it.

Please contact me (378 0974) if you have any queries

**but e-mail or pass hard copies to Richard Jackson at [rjpinetops@icloud.com](mailto:rjpinetops@icloud.com).**

This will incur a slight delay in the proposed release date but if you can please get your pictures into us as soon as possible (and by **Dec 7th** at the latest) we can produce the finished photograph and make it available before Christmas.

Vivienne Lowe

### Book Club

Mark and Rosemary will host our Christmas “do” on Fri 16 Dec. at 7 Goodwell Lea, 7.30 pm. The book to look for is “How to kill your family “by Bella Mackie. Sounds perfect as a Christmas read!

On January 20th we will meet at the Rectory, Anna’s house, to discuss “Home Fire” by Kamila Shamsie, at 7.30 pm.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons



# QUIZ NIGHT



## Village Hall

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, 7pm start**

**£7 members / £9 non-members**

**Teams of 2-10 people**

**book as a team or individuals and we will create a team for you!**

**Pie & Peas Supper**

vegan and vegetarian options available – please let us know

**Bring your own drinks**

**Contact Ian for tickets: [ian.stoker57.is@gmail.com](mailto:ian.stoker57.is@gmail.com)**

(proceeds to the BCA – charity no: 504318)

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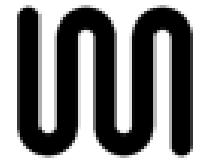
## Village Hall - Regular Weekly Activities

<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
Youth Group – St Brandon's	Sunday (fortnightly)	6-8pm
*Warm Wednesdays	Wednesday	9:30am – 4:30pm

\*open all day...pop in for free wi-fi, use of a media device and refreshments

Please refer to 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:Brancepethca@gmail.com)



**Village Hall**

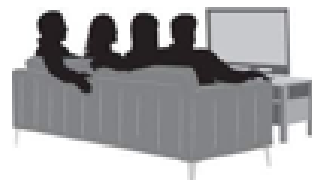
# **‘Warm Wednesdays’**

**9:30am – 4:30pm**



Starting 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Coffee morning, Tai Chi, Table Games, Films, News, Radio & Wi-fi



Do you want to find a warm space ... or just a change of scene to meet neighbours and friends? Perhaps you work from home and would enjoy some company?



Everyone welcome



Refreshments available

# The Christmas Show

In

The Village Hall

On

## Saturday December 3rd

Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 7.30

Party afterwards at 7 Goodwell Lea

Contributions of food and drink gratefully received for the party, finger food for interval.

Please come and support the glittering array of talent on stage; if you are new to the village, this is a great chance to meet everyone.

Tickets: Members of [CA](#) £7 adults, £3 children

Non-members £8 adults, £4 children

Available at dress rehearsal or from Rosemary [Monument](#) - [mwmmonument@gmail.com](mailto:mwmmonument@gmail.com)

Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association

~~reg.~~ charity 504318

As usual there will be a buffet in the interval and a party after the show at 7, Goodwell Lea, and if anyone would like to make contributions of food, it would be most gratefully received.

Please contact Christine Jones: 378 9297

Rosemary Monument: 378 0456

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – November 2022**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th January 2023. Please note there is no meeting in December.

### **Lighting the Christmas Tree – 6:15pm on the cricket field, 7pm at the crossroads**

Please come and join us for some festive fun at the lighting of the village Christmas tree on Friday 2 December. Mince pies and sausage rolls will be provided but please bring your own hot drinks.

### **Future of the Cricket Field (last call for questionnaires)**

Thank you to everyone who has returned questionnaires on the future of the cricket field to us. We have now started collating the results but there is still time for you to have your say if you return your questionnaire as soon as possible using any of the collection points listed below. Your views are important to us and can still be included as long as we have your questionnaires by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### **Collection Points:**

24 Goodwell Lea	29 Goodwell Lea
1 The Forge	3 Foxes Row

By post to the address on the envelope.

### **Bulb planting**

The Parish Council is very grateful to all the volunteers from the Garden Club who helped us to source and plant some new daffodil bulbs along the road side of the A690 and Wolsingham Road last month. We would also like to thank the Garden Club for buying the bulbs (to the tune of £250 for 4,000 bulbs). We hope that the planting will make the approaches to the village both look even prettier come the Spring, as well as reminding drivers that they are entering a residential area.





## **Celebration Tree**

Thanks to Tom, Eli and Michael for planting our celebration tree, an Acer Platinum Royal Red, on the cricket field. We hope to see if flourish for years to come. Thanks to DCC for providing us with a grant for the tree as our planting coincided with National Tree week.

**We would like to pass on our best wishes for the festive season to all residents.  
Brancepeth Parish Council**

### **A letter of thanks from Edward Staines**

I am delighted to announce that the collection at Clare's funeral service for St.Columba's hospice in Edinburgh raised £1,108.75. Very many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

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

Dec	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	Mondays	-	Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	Monday	-	Knit and Natter, 6th, Village Hall 2 - 4 pm.
Dec	Tuesdays	-	Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hall
Dec	Wednesdays	-	Warm Wednesdays, 9.30am -4.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Dec	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Dec	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	Sundays	-	Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Dec	Sundays	-	Youth Club, 4th, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
Dec	2nd	Fri	Lighting the Village Xmas Tree, 6.15pm, Cricket Field
Dec	3rd	Sat	Christmas Show, Village Hall
Dec	9th	Fri	Archives & History Group Xmas Party, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	11th	Sun	Visit of Bishop Paul to relicense Alison Hobbs, 10.15am, Church
Dec	11th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Dec	15th	Thur	Brancepeth ladies, 2.00pm, Golf Club
Dec	16th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 7 Goodwell Lea
Jan	20th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Rectory
Jan	16th	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Feb	3rd	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall

## **Photos**

***Front cover*** - ©Josie Armstrong – Advent Greening in the Church

***Inside front cover*** – © Anna Brooker- Advent & Christmas Events

***Inside back cover*** – ©Anna Brooker – Crown Making at Messy Church

***Back cover*** – © Hester Higton – Jazz Night to celebrate Steve Taylor's 90th Birthday

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

***Newsletter entries no later than December 15th due to Christmas closing dates at the printers.***

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

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)  
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