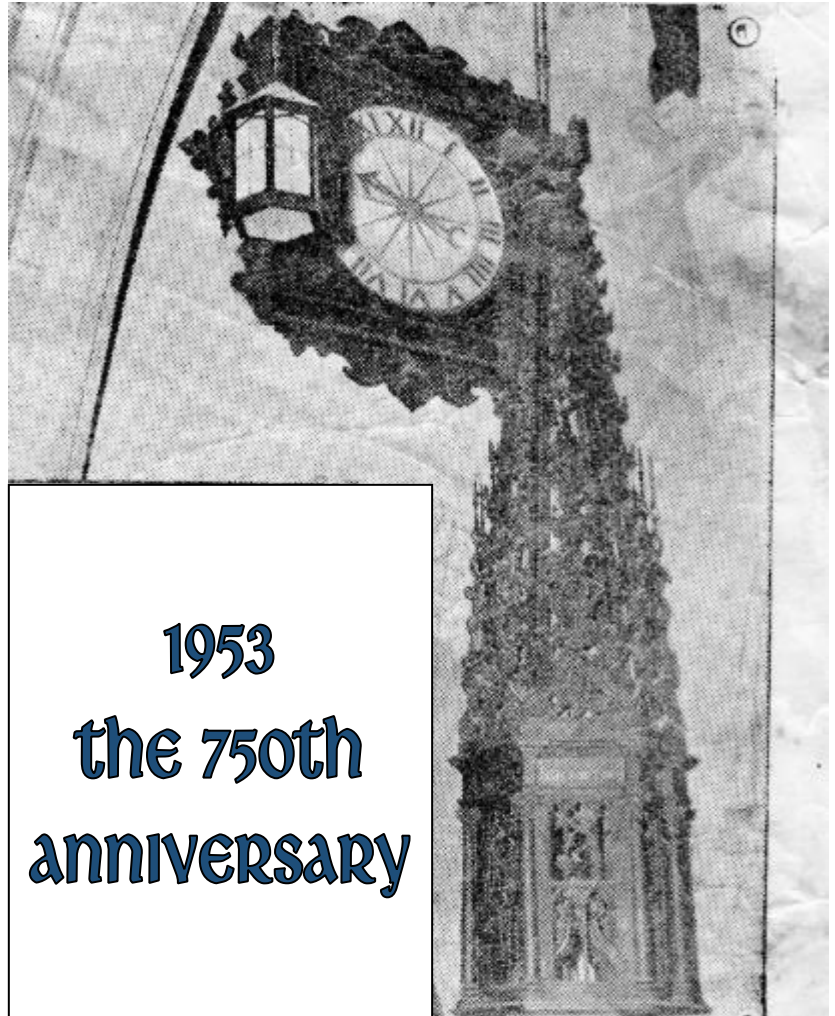
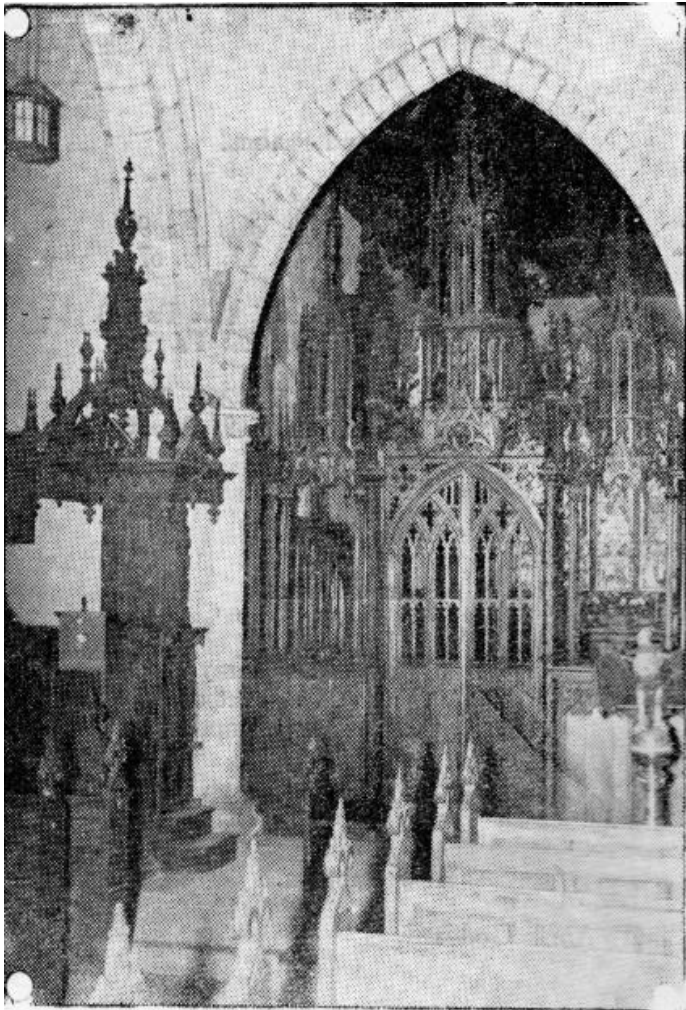
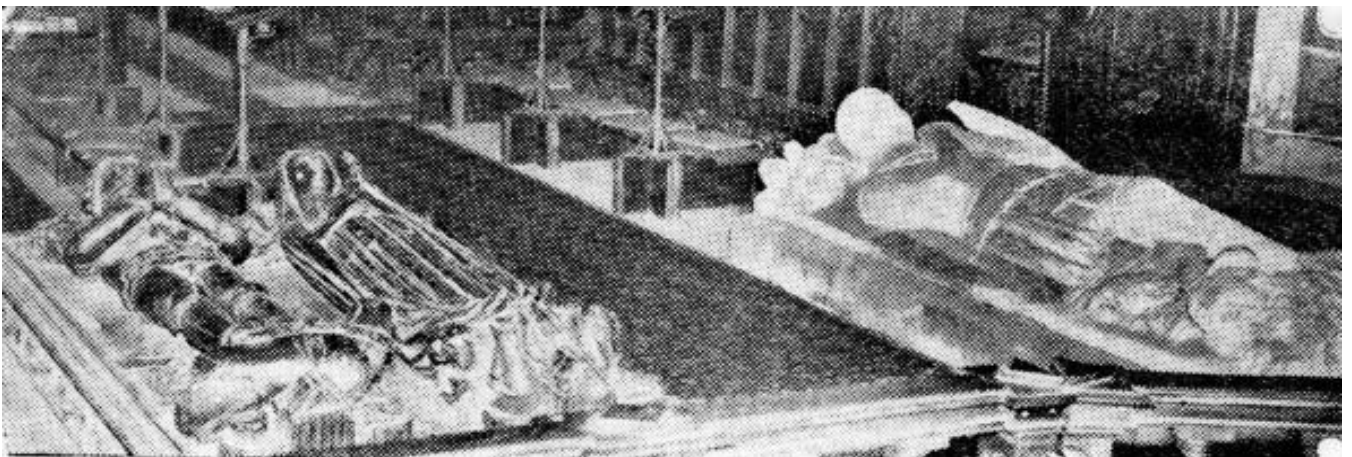


st BRANDON'S church

BRANCEPETH



1953
the 750th
anniversary



newsletter: september 2023

also online at www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

Building 25th Brandon's

1998-2023

**You are warmly invited to join us
as we mark 25 years since the devastating fire
which transformed Brancepeth Church**

Weekend of 16/17 September 2023



Saturday 16th

10am- 3pm

Displays in Church

6pm-7.30pm

Castle Chapel Open

7.30pm

'Sharing the Story'

Presentation and
Reception in Church

Sunday 17th

6.30am Dawn Vigil at St Brandon's
followed by breakfast at Brancepeth Castle

10.15am Anniversary Service

with The Lord Bishop of Durham.

preacher: The Very Revd Adrian Dorber

12:30pm 'Soup and Puds' Lunch,
Brancepeth Village Hall

to reserve a place and contribute food,
please contact Carol Beeby, in church
or carol21beeby@btinternet.com

2pm-3.30pm Castle Chapel Open

12:00 - 5pm Displays in Church



Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (0191 3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.uk
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (0191 3735674)
Church Wardens:	David Eltringham (07779938611) Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) colinwaterman069@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mike Higton (0191 5974675)
Deanery Synod	Caroline Middleditch (0191 378 1400)

Other members:-

Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Ken Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589)
Tom Hobbs (07857437860) Sue Morgan (0191 3781172)
Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520)

Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Sue Hope, Alison Moore (0191 373 5674).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Rev'd Anna Brooker
Organist	Richard Hird
Village Choir	Martyn Jones (0191 3789297)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), Valeria Dietz, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (0191 3735674)
Events coordinator	Janette Foxe events@stbrandon.org.uk .
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (0191 3780858)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (0191 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.
PMC Team:	Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Nick Brooker, Carys Funnell, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Tom Hobbs, Alison Moore, James Morgan, Sue Morgan, Jane Stout, Colin Waterman.
Fabric:	David Eltringham (chair), James Morgan, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Nick Brooker.
Website	www.stbrandon.org.uk

Newsletter entries no later than September 18th please.

Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please contact
Hester Higton on hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop.

Dear friends,

Sharing the Story

This month we mark 25 years since fire all but destroyed our ancient parish church. We've entitled the weekend of events and displays *Building St Brandon's* because the work of building never stops. By this I mean both caring for the beautiful historic building, continuing the amazing achievement of recent years *and* the building of people into a living, loving and sharing community of St. Brandon's today.

Last month, Alison wrote movingly about the costliness and challenges of the *rebuilding process*. As we gather this month, there will be sharp memories of pain and loss, but also times to rejoice and give thanks. We rejoice in the faithfulness of God, in the inspiration, skill and cooperation which enabled the beautiful restoration, and we remember with gratitude the determined, deep generosity of this community. I pray this time brings healing and closure as well as Inspiration and energy. I would urge you, whether you remember the fire or not, whether you lived in Brancepeth through those dark days or moved here since, to be part of *Building St Brandon's* now.

On Saturday 16th September, the precise 25th anniversary of the fire, there's a special reception in church called ***Sharing the Story***, in the evening to enable an audio-visual presentation, including images and recordings of personal memories. Following this will be space for sharing other stories and meeting friends old and new, over a glass of wine. I'm thrilled that my predecessors Adrian Dorber and Rick Simpson will both be part of this event, along with other invited guests: please do come along.

On Sunday 17th, The Bishop of Durham will join us, for his final visit to St Brandon's before he retires next February, to preside at the anniversary service and stay for 'Soup and Puds' lunch in the Village Hall. This evokes the rebuilding days too, when the Hall was the regular venue for Sunday worship and the lunch menu the favourite choice for fundraising socials after. I look forward to seeing the famous Brancepeth Pudding Table heaving with goodies once more! As space at lunch is limited, please book yours soon with Carol Beeby, church warden.

May this month bring us many opportunities to share stories, for in the telling we share sorrows, joys and hopes and we celebrate the unique contribution each person makes towards a greater whole. St Brandon's, people and building, has a wonderful story, told for centuries and promising much to come, as God sustains, guides and blesses in this generation.

With best wishes,

Anna

Anna Brooker, Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church

St Brandon's September 2023– 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 at **8.15am-** **all are welcome to attend-**
and there is a **Midday Eucharist** in Brancepeth Castle Chapel at **12noon.**
Thursday Evening Prayer at 7.30pm is shared via Zoom fortnightly.
- please phone or email for further details*

Sept 3rd

Trinity 13

Parish Eucharist 10.15

Special readings sheet to be printed:

First:	Carys Funnell	Nehemiah 1: 1- 11
Gospel:	David Eltringham	Matthew 16: 21-26
Psalm 102: 1-2, 11-14, 25-28	Wilfred Foxe	Intercessions

Sept 7th

Thursday

Online Evening Prayer 7:30pm

Sept 9th

Saturday

Marriage of James Huyton and Olivia Tindale 1:00pm

Sept 10th

Trinity 14

Parish Eucharist 10.15 am

Special readings sheet to be printed.

First:	Caroline Middleditch	Nehemiah 2: 11-20
Gospel:	Nick Brooker	Matthew 7: 24-27
Psalm 43	Lydia Padfield	Intercessions

Messy Church 3:00pm- 5:00pm

Sept 16th-17th *BUILDING ST BRANDON'S WEEKEND. See poster for full details.*

Sept 17th

Dawn Vigil 6:30am

Meet outside church. Service followed by simple breakfast at Brancepeth Castle.

Anniversary Service Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Service order to be printed, inc readings.:

First:	Jean Hodgson	Nehemiah 12: 27-30
Second:	Edward Staines	1 Peter 2:4-10
Gospel:	Sue Morgan	Matthew 16: 13-20
Psalm 122		
	David Eltringham	Intercessions

Sept 21st

Thursday

Online Evening Prayer 7:30pm

Sept 24th

Harvest Festival

Parish Eucharist 10.15 am

Readings sheet to be printed (all readings are in Lectionary pp 1037-8)

First:	Colin Waterman	2 Corinthians 9: 6-end
Gospel:	Alison Moore	Luke 12: 16-30
Psalm 65		
	Carys Funnell	Intercessions

OCTOBER

Oct 1st

Trinity 17

Parish Eucharist 10.15 am

First:	Linda Waterman	Philippians 2: 1-13
Gospel:	Gillian Smellie	Matthew 21: 23-32
Psalm 25		
	Sue Hope	Intercessions

Oct 5th

Thursday

Online Evening Prayer 7:30pm

Sidespersons

Sept 3rd David & Fiona Eltringham
Sept 10th Annette Johnson & Josie Armstrong
Sept 17th (Dawn) Nick Brooker
Sept 17th Bonny Bainbridge & Pat Sharples
Sept 24th Jane Stout & Jean Hodgson
Oct 1st Sue Morgan & Peter Bailey

Coffee

Sept 3rd Gerry Jennings
Sept 10th Jeanette Metcalfe
Sept 17th Diane Coles
Sept 24th Alison Moore
Oct 1st Jane Stout

Flowers

Jean Hodgson
Wedding
Guild

Harvest Festival
Lynne Hastie

Tech Team

Peter
David & Fiona
Alison & Peter
Higtons
David & Fiona

Church Cleaning

September – Team B

Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss

October – Team C

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

Grass Cutting Rota 2023

21st Aug – 3rd Sept	David Wilks, James Morgan
4th – 17th Sept.	Edward Staines, Martin Peacock
16th Sept – 1st Oct	James Dalton, Nick Brooker
2nd Oct – End	Edward, Michael and Martin

Events Notices for September

The following events will be taking place in the church this month

Monday 18 September - a Group Visit will mean the church is closed from 4pm for one hour.

Wednesday 27 September - the church will be unavailable between 9am and 5pm as we welcome the Centre for Catholic Studies for their Staff Away Day

Thank you for your understanding

Janette Foxe



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.

Sunday School will recommence on 3rd September

Brancepeth Youth Club

September to December 2023

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 for this term are:

September 17 October 1, 15, 29

November 12, 26 December 10

Leaders

Geoff Moore 07854 696664 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074



Youth Club
Summer bbq

Welcome Back Session



Sunday 10th September 3-5pm
in church

*news**crafts**Bible story**songs**tea*

SAVE THE NEXT DATES:

October 15th; November 19th

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST.BRANDON'S

Sunday 24th September 10.15 AM

Most of you will know that for many years, as part of our parish Harvest thanksgiving, we have donated our gifts to DASH – Durham Action on Single Housing – a non profit making organisation which developed from the Cyrenian Shelter in Durham (dashorg.co.uk). The Charity supports single homeless local people of all ages with food and emergency accommodation, and then they are helped to progress to unsupported independent living. The Charity is always extremely grateful for the goods donated by St. Brandon's, which they then make up into packs for new and existing residents.

The following items are particularly welcome:

- Any items which have a long shelf life and can be kept until needed such as any tinned goods (particularly meat, tuna, soup, baked beans, tomatoes, fruit), long life milk, boxes of cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, rice and pasta.
- shampoo, soap, toilet rolls and toothpaste
- any treats such as jams, biscuits, cakes and sweets.

Fresh items such as fruit and vegetables can also be used for demonstrating to the residents how to cook soups and stews. These are often then shared in a communal lunch for those residents housed in the Dash accommodation in Churchill Square.

Thank you for your support in the past, and I hope you will be able to generously give something this year when the need is even greater.

Jean Hodgson

Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables for the Harvest Festival - Sunday 24th September

The Flower Guild would appreciate any donations of fruit and vegetables from the Allotment Association or residents in the village to enhance the flower arrangements in church.

Donations can be brought to church from 9.30am on Friday 22nd Sept or handed to any member of the Guild (ring Lynne Hastie if you would like it to be collected - 3781871)

The produce will be taken to a local charity after the service.

With thanks for your support.

ADVANCE NOTICE: SHOEBOX SUNDAY 2023
will be Sunday 15 October.

More details in the October newsletter.

Save the date

Tuesday 17th October 2023

10am - 3pm

‘Autumn Spruce up’

St. Brandon’s church

It is hoped to do those jobs that don't get done during routine cleaning like cupboards and notice boards.

Plenty of sorting and sitting down jobs!

Come and join us for soup, roll, refreshments and a chat whilst ‘doing’.

More details to follow in the October newsletter but do contact Carol at carol21beeby@btinternet if you would like to know more.

Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary September 2023

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

- 1 For all who have been married at St Brandon's this year
- 2 The Castle and Lodge
- 3 **Trinity 13** – for preachers and leaders of worship
- 4 For students, staff and teachers as the new school year begins
- 5 For Quarry Hill, the cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite farm, Goodwell Field
- 6 For Messy Church members – children, parents, families, helpers, leaders
- 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 **Trinity 14** – for partnerships with the Parish Council and the Community Association
- 11 For war-torn places, and refugees
- 12 For families of all shapes and kinds, for love and understanding
- 13 Stockley Lane, Village South
- 14 **Holy Cross day** – give thanks for the central place of the cross, its different and mysterious facets
- 15 Whitworth Lane, Black House
- 16 **'Building St Brandon's' (25 years since the fire)** – for the commemorative events
- 17 **'Building St Brandon's' special service** – for deep listening to God and each other
- 18 Durham Rd and the Forge
- 19 For those who find themselves victims of abuse, for hope and healing
- 20 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm
- 21 **St Matthew** – ask God's blessing on anyone you know called Matthew
- 22 For St Brandon's PCC members to enjoy the work they do for the church
- 23 For the diocesan PMC Cluster day, for inspiration for St Brandon's members there
- 24 **Harvest** – for farmers, the challenges they face and the decisions they need to make
- 25 For people caught in extreme climate conditions this year
- 26 Peppermires, Holywell, East Parks, Culmaran, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton farm
- 27 All who live in Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View
- 28 Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon farm, Springwell farm, Brawns Den
- 29 **St Michael and All Angels** - for those whose job is to protect people from harm
- 30 Goodwell Lea

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

Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or friendly chat? Please tell Alison Moore of the Prayer Team on 0191 373 5674 or 07890 733 757 or

email moorealisonm21@gmail.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 & 19 Sept 2023 at 11:00
Tuesdays 3, 17 & 31 Oct 2023 at 11:00



For more information, please email alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

Vestry Report

Baptism	Saoirse Brooke Zara Lucas	9 th July
Marriage	Samantha Claire Waude and Richard Moyse Gibbons	24 th June
	Grace Elizabeth Hart and Matthew Douglas Gaze	25 th July
Interment of Ashes	Arthur Baines and Joyce Baines	6 th August



Grace and Matt on their Wedding Day



The Baptism of Saoirse with her parents Zac and Charlotte, brother Alfie and Godparents, Georgina, Libby and Mason.

ANCIENT AND MODERN – A PASSER-BY REFLECTS

Brancepeth – the village, the castle and St Brandon's church – was part of the scenery of my boyhood summers. My Grandma, Jenny Hitchcock, was then the sub-postmistress at Browney Colliery. She had been widowed in 1954, her husband Ernie having retired from Brandon Pit House Colliery in 1952. The Pearce family lived in Darlington, and my brother and I always spent a fortnight of the summer holidays at Grandma's. It seems incredible now, but David and I used to cycle the eighteen miles from Darlington on the A167 [what was then the A1], turning left just before Sunderland Bridge to labour up Burnigill Bank before it turned at length into Browney Lane, where Grandma lived in the house whose front room was the Post Office – I remember its telephone number was Brandon 19.

It must have been in about 1959 when I cycled the two miles from Browney to Brancepeth and went into St Brandon's for the first time. I still remember how astonished I was by its elaboration and antiquity. Brought up in the Primitive Methodist Church [they had united with the Wesleyans in 1933, but that had fooled no-one], I was used to chapels where the pulpit dominated the building, emphasising the importance of the preached Word. Neither did we Primitives go in for altars, preferring plain wooden tables for the monthly Communion service – which was always called The Lord's Supper. Over the intervening years I used to call in to St Brandon's whenever I passed through the village, occasions which became fewer after Grandma died in 1974, followed by Dad in 1980 and Mam in 1995 – they had moved to Durham when David and I went off to universities in the 1960s.

I next saw St Brandon's on a family outing in 2004, six years after the dreadful inferno of 1998, and it was hard to stay dry-eyed in the face of such devastation, at the thought that such a beautiful place, its walls saturated with the prayers of a millennium could, quite possibly, remain derelict. And thus it was that, on August 2nd last, when I walked into St Brandon's again after nearly twenty years, I was totally unprepared for the beauty, lightness and that same sense of embodied prayerfulness with which your restored church continues to show forth Christ, and Him crucified, to the world. It was even harder to stay dry-eyed, so I didn't bother to try. What moved me so was, I think, the message of undaunted courage and obstinate faith to which the restoration of your church attests: and in that courage and faith it is possible [at least it is for me] to feel that St Brandon's lost nothing that was actually essential to our Christian beliefs in that awful fire. Further, the seamliness and grace of the new church interior speak of the craftsmanship and skill which has brought it back to life, just as once did the skill of the Jacobean stonemasons and wood-carvers in the St Brandon's that I first saw all those years ago.

In 1959, St Brandon's was for me one of the powerful sermons in stone of which Shakespeare writes in Act 1 of *As you Like it*. And I hope it will encourage all of you to know it still is, at least to this visitor. And, at a time when it is all too easy for we Christian churches to find reasons to despair, it is not difficult to think of other ways in which that undaunted courage and obstinate faith could serve us all well at a time when both have never been needed more.

John Pearce

John Pearce is semi-retired from various careers in teaching, music, counselling, writing and examining, is married with three children and three grand-children. He worships at the Church of the Holy Saviour, Tynemouth, where he sings in the choir, and serves as PCC Secretary, Soup chef for the Lunch Club, and edits the parish magazine. He lives in Monkseaton.

Contact details on request from the editor.



Brancepeth Village Choir

Weekly from Tuesday 22nd August, 7pm
Village Hall

The choir **is open to all** abilities. Come and give it a try!

As well as providing music for St Brandon's Church at Easter, Christmas, and other significant one-off events, this is also opportunity to be involved in a community group for social, health and artistic expression!

Please contact Martyn Jones if you would like any further details.

Thank you.

martynjones553@gmail.com / 07967 550457



Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

Sept 6th.	Val Gibbons and James Dalton
Sept 13th	Martyn and Christine Jones
Sept 20th.	Margot Harrison and Val Gibbons
Sept 27th.	Vivienne Lowe and Janiece Spence
Oct 4th.	Rosemary Monument and James Dalton

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

Brancepeth Ladies - Thursday, 14th Sept 2.00pm

‘PALATIAL PRELATES’

Dr Richard Pears of Durham University will give an illustrated talk about the grand houses of the Bishops of Durham, who exercised political, judicial and spiritual power in The Palatinate for nearly a thousand years demonstrating their power and wealth and making them kings in all but name.

Please note that anyone is welcome to join us in the Golf Club dining room

Book Club

Our next meeting has been arranged for Friday 1 September. We will meet at the home of Evelyn & Peter Aitken, Raygill Farm, Lartington, 7.30 p.m. to discuss ‘My name is Leon’, by Kit De Waal. Please contact Val if you would like a lift or need directions.

On 13 October we will be at Dawn and Nick Ellis’s house, 24 Goodwell Lea. The book was chosen from a list provided by Sara Cox’s BBC programme ‘Between the Covers’.

It is ‘The Keeper of Stories’, by Sally Page.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons

BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 9 September 2023

The Garden Club's Annual Show will take place on Saturday 9 September. Schedules will be available at the Wednesday Coffee Morning and from committee members listed below. The show will be open for viewing, after the judging, from 2.30-3.30 p.m.

Committee Members:

Bonny Bainbridge Tel. 07495 848 997

Gerry Jennings Tel. 07786071048

Alison Young Tel. 07989 614770

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FUTURE EVENTS

VISIT TO HALLS OF HEDDON – FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2023

We have arranged with David Hall to visit the family nursery, Halls of Heddon on **Friday 6 October**. The nursery specialises in dahlias and also has a wide range of other plants. The visit will be a late afternoon / early evening visit with a stop for supper on the way home. **More information in the October Newsletter**

TALK BY RICHARD BARNES – Friday 17 November, 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Richard came and gave a talk to Garden Club members in March this year and we are very pleased that he has agreed to come back on Friday 17 November to give a talk entitled **'Inspiration'**

Bonny Bainbridge

Contact details

Tel. 0191379304

07495 848 997

alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com

Garden Walkabout Review 14th July

Of course the Garden Club had to choose the first wet Friday evening for about four months for the annual walk about. But about 30 brave souls wrapped up and showed that Brancepethians are made of stern stuff. Many thanks to the people who opened their gardens and particular thanks to Richard Hobbs who set up a bar on the allotments and Jim and Jean Merrington who provided refreshments under their gazebo.





Lastly a huge vote of thanks to the catering team who provided a fantastic supper

Edward Staines



Brancepeth Gardens – Save the Date!



The BCA Garden Club is pleased to announce that the village is entering the National Garden Scheme (NGS) in 2024. In partnership with the wider Community Association and the Castle the date agreed is:

Saturday 20th July 2024, 11am to 4:30pm

If you are willing to open your garden, please contact a Garden Club committee member.

Entry fees go to the NGS charity. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments, with proceeds to the BCA.

Information about NGS is on their website:

www.ngs.org.uk We have literature available for anyone interested.

Further information to follow. Alison Young.

Fern Appeal!

The church yard team has this year created a fernery behind the two graves we restored last year and would be grateful for any donations of different forms of fern from the common ones we have used to start the project.

Please contact Edward on 07729855076 if you can help



Annual Subscriptions 1 September 2023 - 31 August 2024

Once again subscriptions for Brancepeth Community Association (BCA) membership will remain unchanged. The village hall is a huge asset to our community, and we do hope that you will renew your membership or join for the first time. It represents excellent value for money and enables our village to boast a splendid village hall. Members of the BCA benefit from reduced ticket prices at BCA events and reduced hall hire charges.

Prices are fixed for another year at the following rates:

- Adult members (18 years of age and over) £ 7.50
- Adult members in receipt of State Pension (concession rate) £ 5.00
- Family memberships (includes children under 18 living at home) £15.00

This year we would like to **trial a new method** of collecting subscriptions. To help our volunteer collectors we encourage you to pay by placing your membership subscription in the envelope provided and deliver to either to 3 The Forge (Val Gibbons's house) or the village hall post box **ideally by October 31st**, if possible. Please mark your envelope with your name, address and how much you are paying so that we know whether it's a family or other membership. You may pay by cash or cheque (payable to: Brancepeth Community Association). Our volunteer collectors might also call but will aim to miss those houses who have paid by using the envelope. Please forgive us if you get a knock on the door! We are hoping most people will help us by using the envelope. If you can gift aid and have not yet completed a gift aid form, please contact Val Gibbons.

With many thanks for your continued support.

www.brancepethcommunityassociation.co.uk



Indoor Bowls

Thursday mornings 10am – 12noon

Village Hall

Come along and have a go! The group meets weekly. No experience is necessary! All BCA members are welcome.



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
Choir	Tuesday	7-9pm
Knit & Natter	Monday (fortnightly)	2-4pm
Indoor Bowls	Thursday	10-12noon
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

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

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Saturday 9th December 2023

Brancepeth Village Hall

This year I have taken on the role of producing the show following the retirement of Rosemary Monument (big shoes to fill!)

There will be a brand new Young People's play with small parts for everyone
..... Martin Peacock will be looking for anyone willing to take part.

Please get in touch if you wish to perform or can help out in any way behind the scenes.

Josie Armstrong

jo.arm@me.com

Tel 0788 22 33 11 8

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Cricket Field:

The Parish Council have obtained permission from Castle Estates to report on the recent offers from them regarding the continued use of the cricket field.

In March Castle Estates wrote to the Parish Council offering the Parish Council a 1 year Licence to occupy the field at a cost of £6,000 plus Castle Estate's legal expenses.

The Parish Council instructed a Land Agent to negotiate the purchase or lease of the field on their behalf and a meeting was arranged between the land agent and Castle Estates in May. During the meeting, Castle Estates made an offer of a 3 year Lease at a cost of £5,000 per year, again with the Parish Council paying Castle Estates' legal fees. With regard to the sale of the land, Castle Estates have not been forthcoming with any offers.

After taking advice from the land agent, and without any commitment at this stage, the Parish Council agreed to offer 3 options:

- The Parish Council offers to purchase the land outright for £40,000.
- Alternatively, the Parish Council is willing to take on a lease of 25 years at an annual rent of £1,000, with each party bearing their own costs.
- Should neither of these two options be accepted, the Parish Council are prepared, albeit reluctantly, to explore the route of a Compulsory Purchase Order with Durham County Council.

We await a response from Castle Estates.

Brancepeth in Bloom:

Summer judging has now taken place, and although we haven't received an official report, feedback from the judges on the day was most encouraging.

Part of the project is a community-wide activity to maintain the Russell Close garden. We would welcome more volunteers prepared to offer 2 hours of their time per month. Please contact Hassall Balshen on 3781295 / 07803 270560 / Hassall.balshen@gmail.com

Next PC Meeting: 7:30pm Monday 18th September

Cat mobile hairstylist

Formerly of Toni&Guy (cutting only)

Cut and blow-dry £25

Wet cut £18

Blow-dry £16

Contact: 07974279869

Dates for the Diary:-

Sept Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sept Mondays - Yoga resumes on 18th Sept, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sept Monday - Knit and Natter, 4th & 18th, Village Hall 2-4 pm.
Sept Tuesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
Sept Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Sept Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Sept Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
Sept Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sept Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Sept Sunday - Youth Club, 17th 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sept	1st	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Raygill Farm, Lartington
Sept	9th	Sat	Garden Club Annual Show, viewing 2.30-3.30pm, V H
Sept	10th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Sept	14th	Thurs	Ladies Group Talk, Palatial Prelates, Golf Club, 2.00pm
Oct	6th	Fri	Garden Club visit to Halls of Heddon, time tbc
Oct	13th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 24 Goodwell Lea
Oct	15th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Oct	17th	Tues	Autumn Spruce Up, 10.00am -3.00pm, Church
Nov	17th	Fri	Garden Club talk, Richard Barnes, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov	19th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Dec	9th	Sun	Christmas Show, Village Hall

Photos

Front cover – Photos taken from the 1953 Christmas newsletter written by the Rector, WE Wright. That year the church celebrated its 750th anniversary. Thanks to the Wade/Coles family for unearthing this document. Contact Sue Morgan if you would like to see the whole newsletter.

Inside front cover – ©Nick Brooker – Poster for the weekend of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fire -16th Sept 1998.

Inside back cover – ©Anna Brooker/Jane Stout –summer fun at the Messy Church tent during the Craft Fair.

Back cover – ©– Jan & Marita Veldhuizen, the church in 1996, two years before the fire.

Newsletter entries no later than September 18th please
Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

View newsletter on line at www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

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 (0191 3789297)
Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
Treasurer	Ian Stoker, Castle Lodge (0191 3784986)
Membership	Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge (0191 3784200)
Hall Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (0191 3780771)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (0191 3780974)
Art Group	Jeanette Metcalfe, (0191 3781646)
Badminton	Sue Morgan, (0191 3781172)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club	Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (0191 3784200)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (0191 3782748)
Garden Club	Edward Staines (0191 3780858) or Secretary, Bonny Bainbridge, (0191 3789304)
Snooker Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
Wednesday Coffee	Christine Jones (0191 3789297)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (0191 3735674)

Parish Council

Hassall Balshen – Chair (tel: 0191 3781295; email: hassall.balshen@gmail.com)

Nick Ellis (tel: 0191 3782939; email: n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

Thomas Hobbs, Email: tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Stephenson, Email: stephenson15@me.com

Philip Davison, Email: philipdavison000@btinternet.com

Mike Lowe, (tel: 0191 3780974)

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

**Family Fun at the
Messy Church tent during
the Craft Fair**



The Church in 1996



Pam Cook and Marita Veldhuizen preparing flowers prior to the Veldhuizen's renewal of their vows on their 25th wedding anniversary

