st brandon's church brancepeth



newsletter: december 2023

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



Christingle

Sun 10th Dec 3-5pm



*construct our own orange *seasonal crafts *candlelit service

*followed by tea *collection for The Children's Society

everyone welcome- not just children!



Gathering at the Village Hall for the Light Parade on 31st October. Thanks to everyone who provided warm welcomes and delicious treats as we paraded round the village!



save the date! New Year Party

Sunday 7th January 3-5pm in church

fancy dress games activities songs tea please bring some party food – in packaging to help with dietary needs

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 <u>events@stbrandon.org.uk</u>.

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, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison

Moore, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan.

AdminTeam Carol Beeby, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Sue Morgan, Gillian

Smellie.

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 <u>December 15th</u> please. This is due to Christmas closing dates at the printers.

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

I wonder what gifts you are anticipating receiving this Christmas? Perhaps you've not a clue? Perhaps you've put out some strong hints, requests even. I wonder what sort of gifts you most enjoy or welcome: is it the absolute surprise of something most improbable that you would never have dreamt of? Or is it the utilitarian item for the house or garage? Shiny and sparkly? Or well made and quality?

Chances are, many of you reading this will be thinking that that's the last topic on your mind right now, that solving those questions on behalf of others comes first, surely: 'What on earth can I get so-and-so for Christmas?' 'Will we have enough ... ?' 'When will I/we ...?' Catering, provision and travel logistics can be a dominant feature at this stage!

And yet, with all the focus and worry on 'others', maybe we are missing out on a vital part of Christmas? Maybe we risk letting our Christmas gift get buried under the pile, overlooked in the distractions of our duties.

And our own Christmas gift is?

It's shiny and huge, it's tiny and precious, it's extraordinary and entirely unexpected, it's unique and improbable, it's unachievably highest quality, it's amazingly practical and functional: all we could ever imagine and more, all we needed but didn't know it. Oh God! O Christ!

The gift we are each invited to receive anew this Christmas is that of being loved beyond measure, forever accepted as who we are, in all our feeble ways, stained and grubby, battered and bruised. The baby in the manger that we and wise men adore, has come to adore us. Take time this Christmas to unwrap that, and everything else you do will be eased and warmed.

With blessings this Advent and Christmas, Alison Hobbs

St Brandon's December 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 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

DECEMBER

Dec 3rd Advent Sunday Parish Eucharist 10.15 am

First: Colin Waterman I Corinthians 1: 3-9
Gospel: Gillian Smellie Mark 13:24-end

Psalm 89: 1-8,18-20

Alison Moore Intercessions

Thurs 7th Online Evening Prayer for Advent 7.30pm

Sun 10th Advent 2 Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings First: Ken Howe Isaiah 40: 1-11

Gospel: Linda Waterman Mark 1: 1-8

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-end

Colin Waterman Intercessions

Christingle Service 3.00pm hosted by the Messy Church

congregation and followed by refreshments.

ALL WELCOME

Sun 17th Advent 3 Morning Worship 10.15am

with baptism of Annie and Elsie Webster

Reading: Gospel: Edward Staines John 1: 6-8, 19-20

Hester Higton Intercessions

Carol Service 6.30pm

Readings and readers as arranged

Thurs 21st Online Evening Prayer for Advent 7.30pm

Sun Dec 24th Advent 4 / Christmas Eve Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings: First: Alison Moore Romans 16: 25-end

Gospel: Mike Higton Luke 1: 26-38

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Wilfred Foxe Intercessions

Crib Service by Candlelight 5pm

Midnight Communion 11.30 pm

using Christmas Day readings sheets

Readings: First: James Morgan Isaiah 52: 7-10

Gospel: Sue Morgan John 1: 1-14

Psalm 98

Mon 25th Christmas Day All Age Eucharist 10.15am

special readings sheet to be printed

Readings First: Hester Higton Micah 5; 2&4

Gospel: Steve Hodgson Luke 2: 1-14

Hobbs / Dobsons Intercessions

Sun 31st Christmas 2 Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings First: Wilfred Foxe Isaiah 61: 10- 62: 3

Gospel: Caroline Middleditch Luke 2: 15-21

Psalm 148

Martin Peacock Intercessions

JANUARY

Sun 7th Epiphany Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings First: Tom Hobbs Isaiah 60: 1-6

Gospel: Janette Foxe Matthew 2: 1-12

Psalm 72

Geoff Moore Intercessions

Messy Church New Year Party 3 - 5pm

<u>Sidespersons</u> <u>Flowers</u>

Dec 3rd Pat Sharples & Jean Hodgson 1st Advent – Greening

Dec 10th David & Fiona Eltringham Advent

Dec 17th Bonny Bainbridge & Annette Johnson Advent

Dec 17th (Carol service) Sue Morgan & Peter Bailey

Dec 24th Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong Guild

Dec 24th (Crib Service) Jeanette Metcalfe

Dec 24th (Midnight) Sue Morgan & Nick Brooker

Dec 25th Sue Morgan & Nick Brooker

Dec 31st Pat Sharples & Jean Hodgson Epiphany

Jan 7th David & Fiona Eltringham Lynne Hastie

<u>Coffee</u> <u>Tech Team</u>

Dec 3rd Jean Hodgson David & Fiona

Dec 10th Annette Johnson Higtons & Peter

Dec 17th 10.15am Diane Coles Geoff & Alison

Dec 17th 6.30pm Higtons

Dec 24th 10.15am Sue Morgan Geoff & Alison

Dec 24th 11.30pm Higtons

Dec 25th Higtons

Dec 31st Jeanette Metcalfe Higtons & Peter or CM

Jan 7th Jane Stout Geoff & Alison

Church Cleaning

December - Team B

Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson January – Team C

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

Events notice

The church will be in use for a private event on Saturday

 2^{nd} December until 1pm. Thank you for your cooperation throughout the year.

Janette Foxe

The All Souls Day service in November offered an opportunity to remember loved ones in a quiet and reflective evening setting.

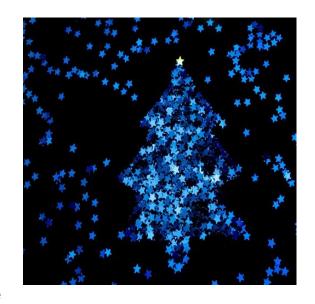


Remembering our Loved Ones at Christmas

Memories are strong at this time of yearwe miss people even more than usual. From late November, there will be a special tree

in church with a basket of silver star tags.

Everyone is welcome to pop into church, write on a star the name/s of those you have loved and see no longer, say a prayer and hang it on the tree.



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 12th Dec 2023 at 11:00 Tuesdays 23rd Jan 2024 at 11:00



I am on holiday the first fortnight of January, so we will miss one Tuesday then resume the fortnightly pattern.

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

Village carol singing

All are very welcome to join the band of carol singers that as usual will be touring the village on Saturday 23rd December (north of Durham Road) and Sunday 24th (south of Durham Road). As it is the weekend, can we please meet at **5.30pm** on Saturday 23rd, at the crossroads; Sunday meeting at the customary time of 6.30pm. We shall be collecting for Brandon & Langley Moor Salvation Army, and Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), proceeds to be split evenly between the two.

Elizabeth Dobson

NEW YEAR'S DAY CHEESE & CHAT!

Do drop by between 12.00 midday and 2.00pm on New Year's Day to share bread and cheese, and a cup of coffee in the Castle Dining Room: great conversations by the log fire!

There will be a contributions pot for 'what you will' for The Children's Society, and Send & Cow.



Choral Evensong

with the Chapel Choir of St John's College Durham directed by Louise Reid Sun 21 January 2024, 3:00pm at St Brandon's All Welcome



Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary December 2023

You are invited to use this diary and share in the prayers offered daily in church. 'Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way, the truth and the life...'

- 1 Pray for inner peace for those who find December a difficult month
- 2 The Castle and Lodge
- 3 Advent Sunday 'Let us not stray from you who are the way'
- 4 Pray for the Parish Council and councillors, for satisfaction in the work they do
- 5 For Quarry Hill, the cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite farm, Goodwell Field
- 6 **St Nicholas' Day** Give thanks for those who are generous to others
- Jewish festival of Hannukkah begins. Pray for protection and support for Jewish communities in the UK at this fragile time
- 8 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood
- 9 Village Show tonight. Give thanks for fun, for community, for laughter
- 10 Advent 1 'Let us not distrust your promises who are the truth'
- 11 Pray for joy for all who attend Youth Club, Messy Church, Sunday School
- 12 For those who live in Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages
- 13 Stockley Lane, Village South,
- John of the Cross 16C Spanish poet and mystic. Give thanks for those who open our eyes to God in new ways
- 15 Whitworth Lane, Black House
- 16 Peppermires, Holywell, East Parks, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton farm
- 17 Advent 2 Carol Service 'Let us not rest in anything but you who are the life'
- 18 Durham Rd and the Forge
- 19 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry Garth
- 20 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scripton Lodge, Scripton Farm
- 21 Goodwell Lea
- 27 All who live in Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View
- 28 **Holy Innocents' Day** Pray for determination for those who work to keep children safe
- 29 Pray for peace in Ukraine
- 30 Give thanks for what has been good in 2023
- 31 New Year's Eve As we start a new year, pray for leaders to protect our planet

(Sunday quotes from a prayer by Erasmus)
If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison
Moore, durmoores@btinternet.com

Sponsored organ voluntaries

This is something new! Although, if you were at the service on 19th November, you will have heard a taster.

The idea is that people can ask for a piece of music to be played at the end of the service, identifying the date and purpose (e.g. an anniversary), and making a suggestion for the music (a particular piece or a composer, for example) if they wish. Wilfred Foxe is happy to act as a channel for these, and will liaise with Richard Hird who will choose the actual piece to be played.

Once agreed, the sponsor(s) – or their named representative – would announce the item in the normal Notices section of our weekly worship and outline the rationale. They or Richard would then announce the piece, and people would be invited to listen to it before engaging in conversation or heading for coffee.

The sponsors would then make a donation of their choice to the Church – there is no fixed amount so as to accommodate different means.

PCC has agreed to trial this until Easter next year, so make use of the opportunity! Geoff Moore

Brancepeth Youth Club 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. Our final meeting this term is on 10 December.

Leaders

Geoff Moore 07854 696664 <u>durmoores@btinternet.com</u>

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

Book Club

Our next meeting is on 12th January. The book will be 'The Cleaner of Chartres' by Salley Vickers. The venue is the Rectory.

All welcome Val Gibbons



Thank you Jean!

On Monday 9th October the Admin team showed their appreciation to Jean Hodgson for all her work over the last 15 years, as Chairman of the committee. She received a bowl of cyclamen as a token thank you for her many years in the role.

The role of the Admin team has evolved over the years to highlight areas requiring attention in the mission of St. Brandon's. Their responsibilities include the production and distribution of this newsletter; enhancing visitors experience of St.Brandon's; the hire of the church and latterly its presence online.

In order to raise funds, along with others, Jean has developed and promoted St. Brandon's as a venue for outside hirers, helped produce leaflets and greeting cards for its many visitors, and spent many hours planning and ensuring the teams responsibilities are meticulously adhered too.

We are thankful that she has agreed to continue to ensure that visitors will continue to benefit from a supply of leaflets and cards by keeping supplies up to date.

Dare you?

..... become a member of **Team NE Tandem Skydive?**

The Children's Society is organising this event to raise money for this great charity.

Date: Saturday 16 March 2024

Venue: Durham Airfield

Time: tbc

Cost: you are asked to raise a minimum of £395.

If you are interested, please contact me at davefi122@btinternet.com or

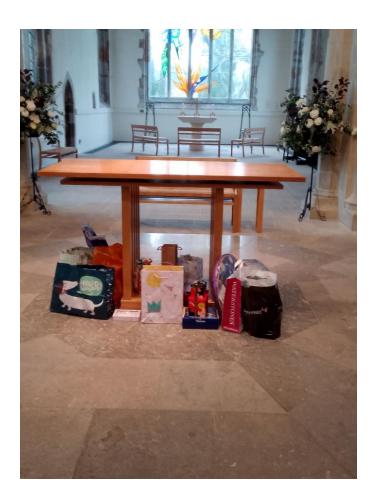
Gill Dean at gill.dean@childrenssociety.org.uk

Fiona Eltringham

Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Thank you to everyone who so generously brought gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal to church in November. More details will follow in the New Year.

Janette



Spruce up day

Question: Who would have believed that cleaning could be fun?

Answer: Sixteen people from the congregation and village on St. Brandon's Spruce up Tuesday! There was much activity and laughter as cupboards in every area of the church were emptied, cleaned, 'rationalised' and sorted. No-one got cold despite no heating as there was a ready supply





of hot drinks; with soup, cheese scones and cake for lunch. Thank you so much to those that came along, sorted areas and supplied sustenance. We will probably have another similar day next year!



The baptism of Elle- Louise Bedford on 15th October 2023.

Elle- Louise with her parents Daniel and Catherine and siblings Ebony- Rose and Frankie, who were also baptised here.



10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

6th December Martyn & Christine

13th December Margot & Val

20th December Vivienne & Janiece

27th December No Coffee Morning

3rd January Rosemary & James

10th January Martyn & Christine

17th January Margot & Val

24th January Vivienne & Janiece

31st January Rosemary & James

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

Men's Social Village Hall 7pm Friday December 1st

Fish Supper

Pay as you eat and drink

£2 admission for hall hire.

Domino and Snooker games

Contact David Jackson

07711 648752

BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE AND HISTORY GROUP

Christmas get together and social evening -

As life is so busy in December, we thought it sensible to hold our Seasonal get together **In January** instead.

This will take place in the Village Hall, Friday 19th January, 7.00p.m.

No charge for members, guests welcome but we would ask for a small contribution to help cover costs. If anyone is able to bring a plate of food, that would be much appreciated

A few members will be giving short presentations about topics that interest them, and there will be a quiz to test your knowledge of Brancepeth!

Please let Vivienne know if you hope to be able to come (3780974) — to ensure we have sufficient refreshments.

We still have Christmas Cards for sale, and the new "Brancepeth in the Past" booklet of photos, which is proving to be very popular.

If you are planning to go to the **Castle Craft Fair**, all our publications will be on our stall in the Archive Room. If you have an hour or so to spare, those manning the stall always value being able to take a short break!

Memberships fall due in January, still only £5.00. For those who renewed or joined at the October talk, your membership covers you for the coming year.

<u>Chocolates at Christmas</u> <u>Brancepeth Ladies - Friday, 8th December</u>

We are delighted to welcome Richard Jackson who will be coming to give us a demonstration of how to make his delicious chocolates.

Please note the change of date
but we will be in the Golf Club dining room at 2.00pm as usual members
£3.50 / £5.50 for guests

Dates for the Diary:-

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- Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec
          Mondays
          Mondays
                      - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec
          Monday -
                         Knit and Natter, 11th Dec, Village Hall 2-4 pm.
Dec
          Tuesdays
                      - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
Dec
          Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Dec
          Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Dec
                     - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
          Thursdays
Dec
          Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Dec
          Sundays
                       - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Dec
                       - Youth Club, 10th, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
          Sunday
Dec
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am - 1.00pm
                           Men's Social, 7.00pm Village Hall
Dec
             1st
                  Fri
                           Ladies Group Talk, Chocolates at Christmas, Golf Club, 2.00pm
Dec
            8th
                  Fri
                  Sun
                           Christmas Show, Village Hall
Dec
             9th
            11th Sun
                           Messy Church, Christingle, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Dec
                           Carol Service, 6.30pm, Church
            17th Sun
Dec
            23rd Sat
                           Carol Singing, 5.30pm, Crossroads
Dec
            24th Sun
                           Carol Singing, 6.30pm, Crossroads
Dec
                  Mon
                           Cheese and Chat, 12.00noon – 2.00pm, Castle.
            1st
Jan
            7th
                  Sun
                           Messy Church, New Year's Party, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Jan
                           Book Club, The Cleaner of Chartres, 7.30pm, Rectory.
            12th Fri
Jan
            19th
                  Fri
                           Archive & History Group, social evening, 7.00pm Village Hall.
Jan
                            Choral Evensong, 3.00pm, St John's College Choir, Church.
Jan
            21st
                   Sun
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Photos

Front cover – ©- Sue Morgan – Christmas at St Brandon's

Inside front cover – ©Anna Brooker – Messy Church invitations and Light Party gathering

Inside back cover — ©- Nick Brooker — Visitor Book Entries & Jane Stout photo of the PMC Café Church Event

Back cover $- \bigcirc -$ Jo Dalton - Christmas Show invitation.

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You can also join us on our Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons)

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

Martyn Jones Chairman Val Gibbons Subscriptions

Vice chairman Geraldine Jennings Garden Club

Jo Dalton Secretary, Website Jean Merrington

& Bookings Social Secretary

Ian Stoker Treasurer Anna Brooker Church Representative

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 Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess

& Leisure Gardeners' Club 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

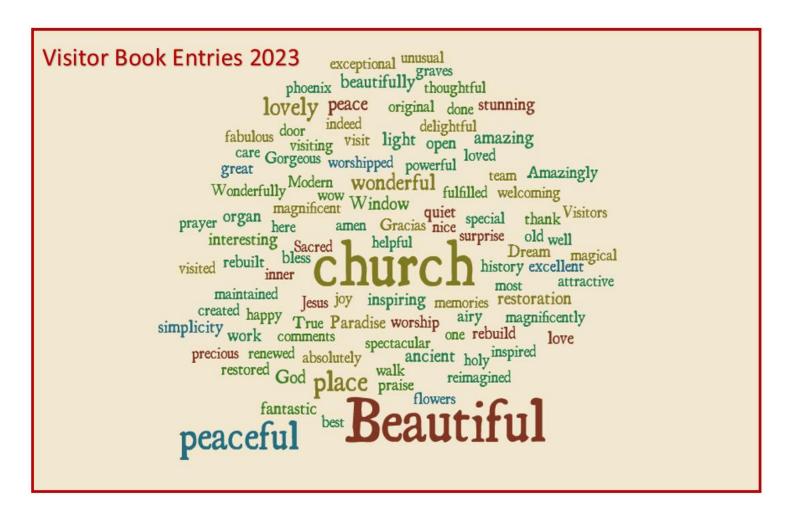
Mike Lowe, (tel: 0191 3780974)

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



The PMC (Pastoral Missional Church) Team reported back to the congregation about their first year's work at a 'Café Church' service on October 19th. The image above brings together some of the thoughts recorded in the Visitors' Book. Below the congregation had a chance to contribute some of their thoughts too.









Brancepeth Christmas Show ho ho

Christmas Show...ho ho ho



Saturday 9th December 2023

Village Hall

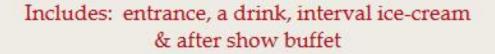
Doors open 6pm - Show starts 6:30pm



Tickets



BCA members - Adult £7/Child £3 Non-members £8/£4





Contact:



Josie Armstrong - 07882 233118 jo.arm@me.com Val Gibbons - 07979 211015 valmgibbons@gmail.com