

# St Brandon's Church Brancepeth



**Newsletter September 2024**

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



*Anna & Nick*

## ***A Highland Farewell***

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm*

**Village Hall**

*Dancing to the Keel Row Ceilidh Band*

Tickets: **£17**

includes supper (bring own drinks)

Contact Carol Beeby:

0191 384 7431/[carol21beeby@btinternet.com](mailto:carol21beeby@btinternet.com)

*wear a touch of tartan if you wish*



## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (0191 3780578) or <a href="mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk">rector@stbrandon.org.uk</a>
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) <a href="mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk">alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens:	David Eltringham (07779938611) Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) <a href="mailto:colinwaterman069@gmail.com">colinwaterman069@gmail.com</a> )
Treasurer	Mike Higton (0191 5974675)
Deanery Synod	Jane Stout (0191 3860618) Peter Bailey (0781772896)
Other members:-	
	Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Kenneth Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589) Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520) Sue Morgan (0191 3781172)
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), 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 (07854 696664)
Events coordinator	Janette Foxe <a href="mailto:events@stbrandon.org.uk">events@stbrandon.org.uk</a> .
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (0191 3780858)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (07854 696664) Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Carol Beeby, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Geoff Moore, Martin Peacock.
AdminTeam	Carol Beeby, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Sue Morgan, Gillian Smellie.
PMC Team:	Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Nick Brooker, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), 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, George Rae.
Website	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

***Newsletter entries no later than September 18th please.***

**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 Higton on [hesterhigton@phoncoop.coop](mailto:hesterhigton@phoncoop.coop).

Dear Friends,

'Transition' seems to have replaced 'change'. For example, we now speak of students as they start university as being in transition – from home/school to away-from-home/university. And universities have recognised their responsibilities in assisting with this transition, realising that it isn't necessarily straightforward for some.

Transition implies that, as well as difference, there is continuity in moving from one stage to another – it's the same person who has just become a student, for example. And so with us. We know we are in a stage of transition as Anna and Nick move on – more on that next month, of course. But we have also been in a state of transition through our involvement with Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) over the last two and more years. You may remember the 'timeline' exercise we did in the early stages.

PMC is about listening to God and each other, and to those we are in partnership with, to try to discern what God's 'promised and preferred future' is for us.

So, one of the significant aspects of the PMC process has been to listen to everyone – young and old, men and women, ordained and lay, those on PCC and those not – to help in this discernment process. And to listen to how others see us as Church in the context of the Village and beyond. We are grateful to those in the community who have contributed to discussions around this.

A key focus has emerged from this discernment process: 'Generously welcoming those who are newer to Church and Village'. This stems from who we are already as Church (so continuity), but also invites us to more deliberate ways of doing and being this (so transition). And to seek to do this in partnership with others in the Village.

Part of the continuity is also that our calling as Church is 'announcing the Kingdom of God' (to use another PMC phrase), and that remains our distinctive contribution to the wider community. Generously welcoming those newer to Church and Village fits within this fundamental calling.

PMC runs formally until December. So, over the next three months, we will be working on how to incorporate and embed this into the continuing life of St Brandon's.

With my best wishes

Geoff

# St Brandon's September 2024 – 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.*

## **Sun 1 Sept 14<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

### **Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings

First:

Colin Waterman

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Gospel:

Alison Moore

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Psalm 15

Intercessions

Wilfred Foxe

*11.45 am Interment of ashes for Mary Seymour, in the new churchyard*

## **Sun 8 Sept CLIMATE SUNDAY**

### **Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings

First:

Gillian Smellie

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Gospel:

Sue Morgan

Mark 7: 24-end

Psalm 146

Intercessions

Nick Brooker

### **Evensong 5.00pm**

*Come and Sing- see advert for details.*

## **Sun 15 Sept HARVEST FESTIVAL**

### **Parish Eucharist 10.15am (NB special readings sheets)**

Readings

First:

Edward Staines

Joel 2: 21-27

Gospel:

Tom Hobbs

Matthew 6: 25-33

Psalm 126

Intercessions

David Eltringham

### **Messy Church 3-5pm**

## **Sun 22 Sept 17<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

### **Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings

First:

James Morgan

Janes 3:13- 4:3, 7-8a

Gospel:

Wilfred Foxe

Mark 9: 30-37

Psalm 54

Intercessions

Edward Staines

*11.45am: Interment of ashes for Caroline Middleditch, in the Circle of Remembrance*

**Sun 29 Sept MICHAELMAS Parish Eucharist 10.15am**  
 Readings First: Jane Stout Genesis 28: 10-17  
 Gospel: Judith Minto John 1: 47-end  
 Psalm 103: 19-end  
 Intercessions Colin Waterman

**OCTOBER**

**Sun 6 Oct 19<sup>th</sup> after Trinity Morning Worship 10.15am  
 with Baptism of Anwen Funnel**  
 Readings First: Janette Foxe Genesis 2:18-24  
 Gospel: Kenneth Howe Mark 10: **13-16** (*NB shortened reading*)  
 Intercessions Wilfred Foxe

**Sidespersons**

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong  
 Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Pat Sharples & Peter Bailey  
 Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Nick Brooker & Sue Morgan  
 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> David & Fiona Eltringham  
 Sept 29<sup>th</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets  
 Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Annette Johnson

**Flowers**

Gerry Jennings  
 Annette Johnson  
 Harvest Festival  
 Lynne Hastie  
 Jean Hodgson  
 Sheena Murray

**Coffee**

Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Gerry Jennings  
 Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Jean Hodgson  
 Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Annette Johnson  
 Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Diane Coles  
 Sept 29<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan  
 Oct 6th Jeanette Metcalfe

**Tech Team**

Higtons  
 David & Fiona  
 Geoff & Alison  
 Peter  
 Higtons

**Church Cleaning**

*September – Team B*  
 Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss, Diane Cassap  
*October – Team C*  
 Carole Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Janette Foxe

**St. Brandon’s Church – Grass Cutting Rota 2024**

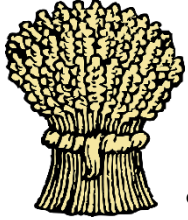
2nd Sept– 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Edward Staines, Martin Peacock  
 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – 29th Sept James Dalton, Nick Brooker  
 30th Sept – End Edward, Michael and Martin

*Events News for September*

*The church will be unavailable on both the  
 21<sup>st</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> September from 9am to 5pm.*

*Thank you for your understanding.*

*Janette*



## SEPTEMBER PRAYER SPACE: HARVEST

- Give thanks for our 'daily bread', in all its many forms, and for all who work to produce it.
- Pray for those who don't have enough to eat (one in seven people in the UK).
- Pray for the Trussel Trust and its 1,300+ foodbanks across the UK, including Brandon.
- Pray for those living in areas threatened by famine, for example Gaza and Sudan.
- As children and young people return or start afresh in schools, colleges and universities, pray that their learning may bear a good harvest in their lives, now and for the future.
- Pray for teachers and support staff, especially those working in challenging settings.
- Pray for the new Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, MP for Sunderland, and her department, for wisdom and courage in decisions and future planning.

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.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 11:00  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 11:00



Alison will be on holiday on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, and possibly on a residential training course for several weeks from 4 October, service dates beyond these will be announced in September.

For more information, please email [alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk](mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk)  
Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

### Brancepeth Youth Club

### September to December 2024

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 8, 22

October 6, 20

November 3, 17

December 1, 15

#### Leaders

Geoff Moore

07854 696664

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

Martin Peacock

07503 242074

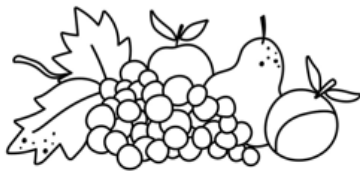


## Harvest Festival

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> September  
10.15am

Please bring gifts of fresh produce to church  
on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.  
Non-perishable foods also most welcome -  
**thank you.**

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



## *Come and Sing* Choral Evensong for Accession Day at St Brandon's

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> September, 5pm  
*tea served from 4:15pm*

*Everyone is welcome to join in  
this **Come and Sing** event*

Rehearsal for singers begins 1pm in church  
All are invited – no previous experience  
needed. **More details from Richard Gooding:**  
[richard@courante-music.com](mailto:richard@courante-music.com)



## **HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST.BRANDON'S SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://dashorg.co.uk)). The Charity supports single homeless local people of all ages with food and emergency accommodation, and then they are eventually 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 we hope you will be able to give generously again this year.

Jean Hodgson

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



IS BACK ON SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024!

ACTIVITIES AND STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.

WE GET TOGETHER AFTER THE FIRST HYMN AND REJOIN THE SERVICE FOR COMMUNION.

**Welcome Back : it's HARVEST!**



**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

**3-5pm in church**

**news\*\*crafts\*\*Bible**

**story\*\*songs\*\*tea**

**SAVE THE NEXT DATE:**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> - SHOEBOX SUNDAY**

**ADVANCE NOTICE: SHOEBOX SUNDAY 2024**  
will be Sunday 13th October.

We will collect boxes and 'shoebags' filled with gifts.  
You can also donate any of the items which go in these, to be put  
together by our Messy Church congregation.

If you'd like to take part, please see details online at

<https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

Leaflets will be in the October newsletter.

**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](mailto:moorealisonm21@gmail.com)**



# Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

4th September.	Margot and Val
11th September.	James and Catherine
18th September.	Vivienne and Janiece
25th September.	Martyn and Christine
2nd October.	Val and Karen

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

## Book Club

Our next meeting will be meeting on September 20th to read, 'Oh Caledonia', by Elspeth Barker. We meet at the home of Linda & Colin Waterman, 58 High West Road, Crook. DL15 9NT

The following meeting will be on 18th October at 3 The Forge, Val Gibbons' home. The book will be, 'According to Queenie', by Beryl Bainbridge.

All welcome

Val Gibbons

## ***The Children's Society***

Once again many thanks to those of you who support this great charity by putting money into their little collecting boxes. This year we changed the opening time to June and raised the sum of **£701.18**. I am aware that so many people no longer use cash, so it was a great result.

As many of you will know, we have plans to move south, so I will no longer be your contact, but a big thank you for all who have been supporters over the years. I am very grateful to **Gillian Smellie** who has now taken over from me.

If you have ever thought you might like a box please speak to her.

Fiona Eltringham

## Brancepeth Ladies

2.00pm Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, Golf Club

We were so sorry that our last meeting had to be cancelled at such short notice and do hope we can resume with this meeting followed by 14<sup>th</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Unfortunately Jane, who was booked for that talk cannot now come during the day because she has started full time work but a programme will be in place soon and sent out to members by email or post.

Cost is as usual. Members £3.50 and Guests £5.50

# Prayer & Doodle Session

Saturday 28th Sept

10:30-12:30

Langley Moor Hall

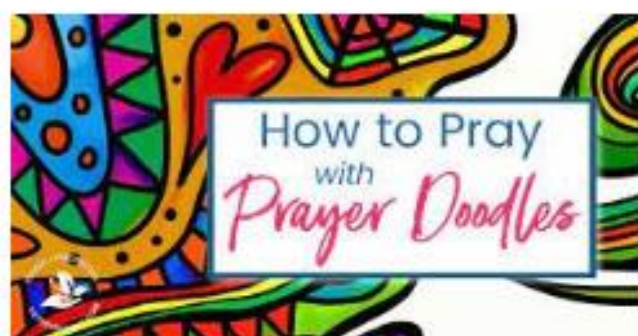
No Drawing skills needed...

Come and see how you could use doodle in prayer in Worship or personally.

Doodle Art Aley ©

Includes: A demonstration, refreshments and the opportunity to try. Bring your own pens and pencils if you want, but not necessary.

Contact Major Meshiel Brown for further information via email [Meshiel.brown@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Meshiel.brown@salvationarmy.org.uk)



## BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB

### CANCELLATION OF THE AUTUMN SHOW 14.9.2024

The Garden Club Committee has decided, with regret, to cancel the Autumn Show which was due to take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Committee has received a significant number of resignations over recent months from long-serving, experienced members which has left the committee's numbers somewhat depleted. After discussion, it has been agreed that the best way forward is to take the opportunity to regroup and to recruit new, enthusiastic committee members with skills that will enable us to deliver a full programme of events to members over the year.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in getting involved, either by becoming a member of the Club, by joining the Committee or to offer suggestions of gardens to visit, gardening topics for talks etc. The Club really needs the support of its members to thrive and we would hope to encourage as many people as possible to support events and to consider entering both Spring and Autumn shows. In recent years a high percentage of entries have come from a small number of people and we would like that to change and for there to be much wider member participation.

We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved. Please get in touch with a committee member for a chat. Contact details below:

Bonny Bainbridge	Email <a href="mailto:alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com">alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com</a> Mob. 07495 848 997
Fred Bainbridge	Email <a href="mailto:fabb633@gmail.com">fabb633@gmail.com</a> Mob. 07943 940 708
Moya Balshen	E mail <a href="mailto:moya.balshen@gmail.com">moya.balshen@gmail.com</a> Mob. 07736 081 348
Gerry Jennings	Email <a href="mailto:gerryjennings5@googlemail.com">gerryjennings5@googlemail.com</a>
Bea Muylaert	E mail <a href="mailto:be_arnab@ymail.com">be_arnab@ymail.com</a> Mob. 07714 764203
Edward Staines	Email <a href="mailto:edwardstaines@icloud.com">edwardstaines@icloud.com</a> Mob. 07729855076
Alison Young	<a href="mailto:gfamyong@gmail.com">gfamyong@gmail.com</a> Mob. 07989614770

Bea Muylaert

**National Garden Scheme Open Gardens** 12 gardens and over 20 allotment holders opened for the day. A Bee demo and Northumberland pipers turned out for us. Fred and Bonny amassed a magnificent plant sales. The car parking was provided by the Castle friends without which the event could not have taken place...

The event was enjoyed by at least 360 ticket holders who were very appreciative of the village and our gardens. The BCA provided refreshments which needed huge donations of food and helpers and they all did a magnificent job as the food just lasted until the end.

The ticket sales for the NGS Charity plus some generous donations amounted to just over £1,800. After deductions the amount raised for the BCA is £1,300 which includes £253 from plant sales.

The event was sponsored by the Garden Club but the whole village contributed to make the day a success so a great thank you to all who took part.

Alison

On behalf of BGC Committee.

## **Celebrating or drowning our sorrows?**

No matter! We will be receiving our Northumbria In Bloom award results in mid-September and the Brancepeth team extend a warm invitation to everyone to come and celebrate your hard work, to learn how we did, and to say Thank You.

We will present the promised certificates to those who painted the tiles for the Bus Shelter and also to those whose efforts helped (hopefully) to move us up to Gold. And there will, in the best traditions, be cake and wine.

So if you painted a tile, cleared a road, weeded an area, cleaned a sign and all the other stuff we did before the Judges' visit, make a note of the date and come and join the fun.

**Wednesday 25th September, Doors Open 6.00pm for 6.30 pm upstairs in the Village Hall.**

PS if you can drop me a note to advise you will be with us, it would help ensure we have enough bottles and cakes.

Text to 0774 614 7435

## **90th Birthday Celebrations at Stockley Farm**



John Bell and his wife Sylvia have lived and worked at Stockley Farm since 1953. They were well known in the village when they did their milk round.

Residents of Stockley gathered to toast John on his 90th birthday and presented him with a flower tub and a special plaque. Thanks to Richard Hardern for the group photograph.



A massive thank you to all the volunteer bakers, setup crew, and teashop helpers for making the NGS Open Garden event a great success. Over £1,300 was raised for the Village Hall—fantastic! Special thanks to Alison Young and the Garden Club for organising the event. The funds raised will go toward the recent roof repairs.

### 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, parties, snooker, badminton, soft-tennis & table-tennis please contact: Jo – 07876 624626 / [Brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:Brancepethca@gmail.com)

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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## **Some items from the last Parish Council Meeting:**

### Brancepeth in Bloom:

The PC would like to thank all the organisers and volunteers from across the parish who helped with this project. We noted that the village looked wonderful on the 15<sup>th</sup> July when judging took place.

### Neighbourhood Warden:

We received an update on this important role from our local warden, Paul Rutherford. Paul explained that the DCC warden team supports communities over issues such as fly tipping, litter and dog control. They can employ covert cameras in trouble 'hot-spots' and are currently updating all litter-related warning signage in the area. The wardens liaise with police where appropriate, resulting in the seizing of vehicles and prosecutions. To enable the team to get a comprehensive picture of offending in the parish, Paul reminded people to report any incidents, however minor, via the 'Nuisances' section of the 'Do it online' part of the DCC website.

### Cricket Field & Neighbourhood Plan:

Frustratingly, the PC has not received any further response from Castle Estates regarding our offers to rent or purchase the field (as detailed in our update in August 2023). We now have a consultant re-drafting our Neighbourhood Plan which we envisage will make provision for designating the cricket field as local green space. As part of the NP process, that will be the subject of landowner consultations. We are not expecting any changes to the neighbourhood planning system by the new Government and similarly we are not expecting any changes to the planning framework that would impact Brancepeth. However, there may be legislation to improve local access to green space, perhaps at a later stage. We are not anticipating any change of approach from Castle Estates until after the planning status of the field is resolved and even then, they may not offer any lease. If the NP is ultimately approved, this may help to progress negotiations, but realistically we don't think this issue will be settled soon.

### BT Voice - Changeover from Landline phone calls to Broadband:

(Thanks to Tony Scorer who attended a recent BT event in the Town Hall for much of the info below.)

Parishioners may be aware that, by the end of 2025, BT plan to change from offering landline phones to using broadband via a household's internet router; but you may not fully appreciate what this will mean for your domestic phone line. In summary, there will be a mandatory change-over to a broadband based phone system. Vulnerable people who aren't using broadband or have no router could remain on a landline for circa 2 years and there will still be a power supply at the exchange. However, for those of us who will be shifted to BT Voice, broadband and routers will not work during a power cut. A small battery pack can be purchased for circa £85 and will allow phone calls to be made during a power outage. Vulnerable people, carers and those over 75 should be eligible for a free battery pack. BT also claim that any

temporary failure in the new system could easily be ameliorated by parishioners using their mobile phone; but of course, there is poor mobile reception across much of the parish! So, what might we do to help people cope with what could be a worrying set of changes?

*First, re BT Voice:* BT will be writing to every resident to inform them of the Voice initiative, but some of our personal experiences as councillors in already making the shift to the broadband based system suggests that the change-over does not always go to plan. So, the PC hopes to facilitate a meeting in the Village Hall where the Stakeholder Engagement Manager from BT can explain the changes in more detail and answers parishioners' questions and concerns. If this is possible, depending on their availability, this may have to be conducted via Zoom. We could also invite representatives from the DCC's Digital Durham initiative (who may also be able to advise on mobile phone infrastructure – see below) and Age Concern who have said they are available to support elderly people on the change-over. We shall keep you posted if we can arrange anything extra to reassure parishioners.

*Second, re mobile signal:* Any improvement in mobile phone reception will have to be lobbied for and would probably require a new, locally based mast which, depending on location, may be a concern for some residents and indeed landowners. It is likely to encounter significant planning challenges. Nevertheless, if we do want to persuade providers to invest in what may be a jointly owned mast, we can report instances of inadequate signals to our respective mobile network operators (MNOs): O2, Three, Vodafone and EE. You can use OfCom's signal checker (<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/mobile-coverage>) to check which MNO provides your phone company with a signal (e.g. Tesco Mobile relies on O2), and to find out about the predicted availability of mobile services around your post code. Any failure to meet that promised service level can be logged and reported to their MNO by individuals. The PC is discussing whether we should collate such reports to build a centralised evidence base with which to lobby providers.

### **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:**

Monday 16th of September 2024 7:30 pm in the Village Hall

Members of the public are very welcome to attend but it would be helpful if you could let our Clerk know in advance so we can manage seating.

Kirsty Charlton is available at: [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

### **Website:**

Don't forget that updates and full details of PC meeting agendas and minutes can be found on our website:

[www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

## Dates for the Diary:-

Sept Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Sept Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Sept Monday - Knit and Natter, 2nd, 16th & 30th 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 Sundays - Youth Club, 8th & 22nd 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall  
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

Sept 8th Sun Come & Sing, Choral Evensong, 5.00pm (tea 4.15pm)  
Sept 14th Sat Garden Club Autumn Show, Village Hall **CANCELLED**  
Sept 15th Sun Messy Church Harvest Festival, 3.00pm -5.00pm  
Sept 16th Mon Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club  
Sept 16th Mon Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Sept 16th Mon Parochial Church Council, 7.30pm, church  
Sept 20th Fri Book Club, 7.30pm, 58 High West Rd, Crook, DL15 9NT  
Sept 22nd Sun Champagne Tea, Village Hall  
Sept 25th Wed North'bria in Bloom Awards results, 6.00pm Village Hall  
Oct 18th Fri Book Club, 7.30pm, 3 The Village  
Oct 19th Sat Ceilidh Farewell to Anna & Nick, 7.00pm, Village Hall

## **Photos**

**Front cover** – ©- Richard Jackson. Nick Brooker beside the ceramic mural in the east bound bus shelter

**Inside front cover** – © - Jo Dalton. Invitation poster to Anna & Nick's farewell ceilidh.

**Inside back cover** – ©- Jane Stout. Concerts and fun over the summer months

**Back cover** – ©– The Village Street & a selection of gardens photographed during Brancepeth in Bloom and the NGS Open Gardens Event

**Newsletter entries no later than September 18th please.**

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

**View newsletter on line at [www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter)**

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

## **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	
		Josie Armstrong	<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 378 2818.)
Social Secretary	Josie Armstrong, <a href="mailto:jo.arm@me.com">jo.arm@me.com</a> / 07882 233118
Membership	Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge (0191 3784200)
Hall Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
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 & Richard Hobbs <a href="mailto:baacommittee3@gmail.com">baacommittee3@gmail.com</a>
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**

Mike Lowe, Chair tel: 0191 3780974

Thomas Hobbs, Vice Chair: email: [tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk)

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

Nick Ellis - tel: 0191 380 3047; email: [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

Michael Stephenson, email: [stephenson15@me.com](mailto:stephenson15@me.com)

Philip Davison, email: [philipdavison000@btinternet.com](mailto:philipdavison000@btinternet.com)

Catherine Stevenson: [catherine@jamsey.net](mailto:catherine@jamsey.net)

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

**County Councillors:** [olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk](mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk)

[fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk)

[www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

## Church Events during the summer

Messy Church tent at the Craft Fair



Colla Voce Choir at Evensong



Soloist for The Durham Singers



A Choir! A Voice! Ladies Choir



Views of the village and its gardens during Brancepeth in Bloom and the NGS Open Gardens Event

