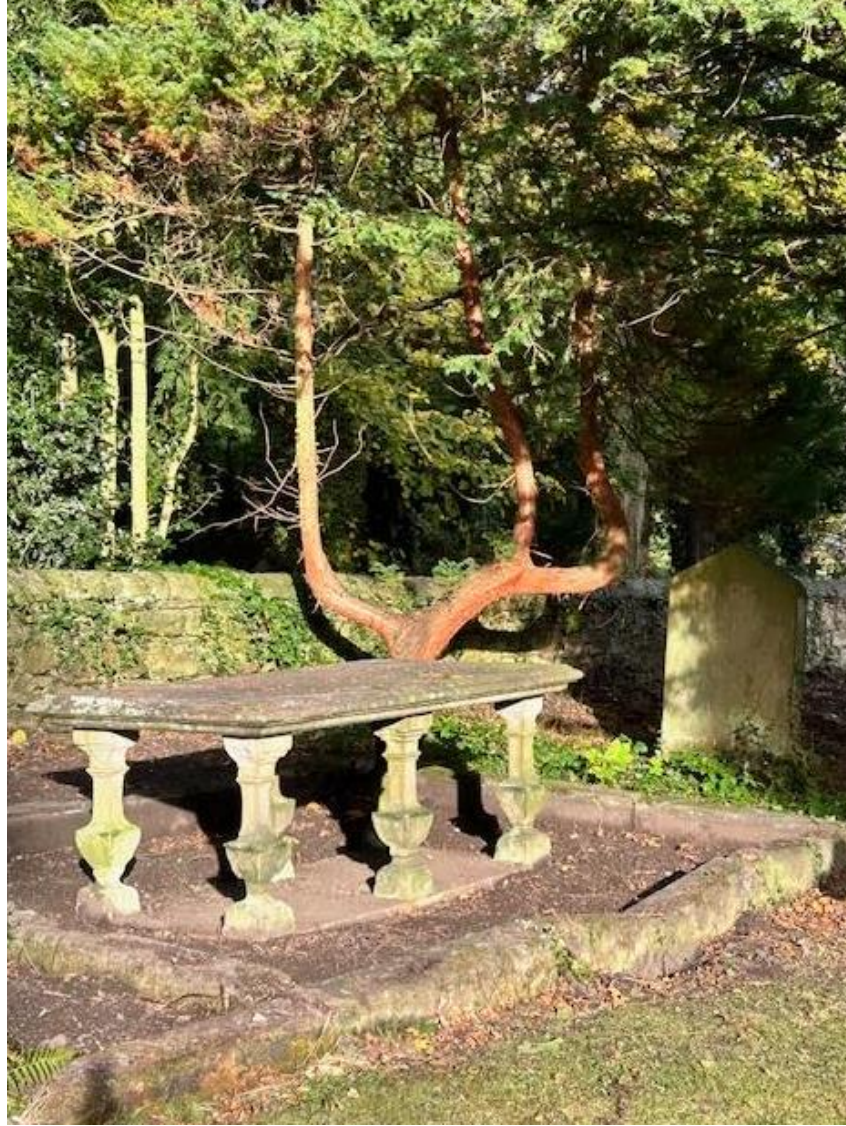


# BRANCEPETH parish newsletter



**DECEMBER 2024**

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



## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	currently in vacancy
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) <a href="mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk">alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens:	Mike Higton (0191 5974675) Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) <a href="mailto:colinwaterman069@gmail.com">colinwaterman069@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Vickie Jackson (0191 3783581) <a href="mailto:djacksonfarming@outlook.com">djacksonfarming@outlook.com</a>
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	Carole Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
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, Janette Foxe, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Geoff Moore, Martin Peacock.
AdminTeam	Carol Beeby, Janette Foxe, Sue Morgan, Gillian Smellie.
PMC Team:	Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Alison Moore, James Morgan, Sue Morgan, Jane Stout, Colin Waterman.
Fabric:	Mike Higton (chair), James Morgan, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines, George Rae.
Website	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### **Updates since the last Parish Council Meeting:**

#### Newsletter:

The PC is grateful to Sue Morgan for her magnificent efforts in putting the newsletter together each month. To reflect the significance of the newsletter to village life and communications, we have agreed to increase our funding contribution. Following another meeting of representatives of various village groups attended by Co. Ellis, the decision was taken to retitile this publication; and indeed, you may have noticed the new title on the last edition proudly proclaiming, 'Brancepeth Parish Newsletter'. This is to reflect the balance between church-related and secular items in its pages, with the term 'parish' capturing both aspects of the newsletter's content.

#### Village Hall Celebration

You may have seen members of the PC behind one of the desks at this event on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. We welcomed the opportunity afforded by the kind invitation of the BCA to showcase the work of the PC. Councillors chatted to visitors and distributed a brand-new leaflet which summarises the role of the council, copies of which can also be found on the Committee Room noticeboard and on the PC noticeboard on Wolsingham Road.

#### State of the Village:

We are waiting for the County Council to come back to us on whose responsibility it is to maintain the footpath in the Village running down from the crossroads to the Castle Gates: it is complicated!

We have chased them again about the state of the footpath in the dip heading from the crossroads down towards Stockley Grove as this continues to be overflowing with mud and leaves.

Thanks to several skilled volunteers, including Nick Brooker and Co. Davison, and some PC spending, the bus shelter on the Castle side of the crossroads has been upgraded with a splendid new village map; and both shelters now have functioning lighting.

#### Brancepeth in Bloom:

You may have noticed some bulb planting taking place along the A690 and Wolsingham Road, and in some of our planters. We have a colourful selection of new bulbs to look forward to. For the future, we are looking to change the PC's Bloom working group's membership, partly to relieve the pressure on some of our more committed members, as our efforts in this area evolve. New volunteers and new ideas are always welcome!

#### Neighbourhood Plan:

The PC continues to work closely with our experienced consultant to produce a new draft of this important document. The NP working group is considering planning policies and community actions alongside regular discussion of the plan as a standing agenda item at each PC meeting. We hope to have the latest draft completed by the end of November (following the council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>) with a view to then circulating it to Parish stakeholders.

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. (There is no PC meeting in December.)

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: [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, along with any new documents regarding the NP, can be found on our website: [www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

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## Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

### Village Hall

4th December.	Rosemary and James
11th December.	Vivienne and Janiece
18th December.	Martyn and Christine
25th December.	No coffee morning
1st January.	No Coffee morning

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

### Village carol-singing

As usual, Brancepeth carol-singers will be going round the village on the evenings of Monday 23rd December (north of the main road) and Tuesday 24th (south of the main road). Anyone who would like to join in will be most welcome: we will meet at the crossroads, at 6 pm on Monday 23rd, and at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 24th. Donations this year will be split evenly between the Salvation Army in Langley Moor, and Lend with Care's Climate Positive grant scheme, which is currently focused on providing efficient cooking stoves to marginalised families in Rwanda and India, an initiative that leads to improved air quality, less deforestation, and frees women and girls from the time-consuming task of gathering firewood. More information can be found at [Indwithcare.org/grants](http://Indwithcare.org/grants).

Elizabeth Dobson.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY CHEESE & CHAT!

Brancepeth Castle Dining Room, 12.00 midday to 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 Ripple.

## BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is holding its Post-Christmas Party on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. at Brancepeth Golf Club and both members and non-members/guests are welcome. The menu choices are listed below.

### MENU

#### STARTERS

Prawn Cocktail served with brown bread fingers

Vegetable soup served with a bread roll

#### MAIN COURSE

Roast beef and Yorkshire Puddings, served with roast potatoes, peas and braised leeks in a cheese sauce

Poached salmon in a cream sauce with wine and dill

Vegetable chilli with golden savoury rice (not too spicy)

#### DESSERTS

Sticky toffee pudding served with butterscotch sauce

Chocolate brownie with ice cream

If you would like to book, please would you email your name(s) and menu choice(s) to Alison Young, [gfamyong@gmail.com](mailto:gfamyong@gmail.com) The cost for three courses is £18 and you can pay in one of two ways. You can put a cheque/cash in an envelope, with your name and contact details on the front, in the Village Hall post box or you can pay by bank transfer. The Garden Club's bank details are:

**Bank: Co-op**

**Sort Code: 08 92 99**

**Account No. 67318094**

You will need to enter your name as a reference so that the Treasurer can identify your payment.

**Bonny Bainbridge, Garden Club Secretary**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Brancepeth Ladies Group*

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- *Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm*  
*Don't forget your Christmas Decoration competition*
- *Dates for your Diaries*  
*20<sup>th</sup> January - Lunch -*  
*17<sup>th</sup> February - 'A House Built on Love and Chocolate'*

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## A serendipitous connection



As some of you will know, our son, Tom, has recently started at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Reading a booklet on the history of the college, he came across a reference to a stained-glass shield that ‘was rescued in about 1867 from a rubbish heap at Brancepeth church, County Durham’ (!). We’ve done a little bit more investigating and can now reveal the full story.

In about 1867, a young man called James Hodgson (later vicar of Witton-le-Wear and a noted antiquary) discovered the glass on the floor of the church vestry. It had apparently been dumped there during the restoration of St Brandon’s by Anthony Salvin for the Boyne family, when the Victorian glass was inserted. Hodgson thought that the shield had probably been set in the upper section of one of the windows in the north side of the chancel.

Hodgson kept the shield for many years, before giving it to a friend, Dr Alfred Robinson, who hung it in the window of his room at the Zetland Club in Redcar. When the club was destroyed by a bomb in 1941, Dr Robinson was killed. Miraculously, however, the glass survived, though badly damaged. It was bequeathed to his former Cambridge college, which is how it ended up in the bay window of the college Parlour at Emmanuel.

The shield shows the coat of arms of John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward III. It’s particularly interesting (and rare) because this version of his coat of arms is one in which he claimed his right to the throne of Castile and Leon in Spain through his marriage to Constanza of Castile. As you can see from the picture, the left side of the shield shows the castle of Castile and the lion of Leon. John’s more normal arms are on the right: the royal arms of England, with an ermine band to show he was a prince and not the king.

From about 1372 John also held the advowson of St Brandon’s – meaning that he had the right to appoint the rector. So it’s likely that the shield was placed in the window at about this time, either at his order or by John, Lord Neville. Neville had been a formal member of John of Gaunt’s retinue since 1366, and had probably been in his employment since the late 1350s. It was during this Lord Neville’s time that the chancel of St Brandon’s was expanded, with the inclusion of new windows – and, of course, new glass.

You can read a bit more about the story of the shield in two blog posts on the Emmanuel College website:

<https://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/blog/?id=562>

<https://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/blog/?id=571>.

In an entirely unrelated coincidence, John of Gaunt is the many-times great-grandfather of Nick Brooker.

Hester Higton

(with grateful thanks to the Emmanuel College archivist, Amanda Goode, for allowing use of the image and for providing further information about the shield’s history)



## Messy Church Christingle

this month is on **Sunday 15th December**

**3pm - 5pm in church**

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

**SAVE THE NEXT DATE**

**Messy Church New Year Party Sunday 5th January 2025**

**Thanks to everyone who provided warm welcomes and delicious treats as we paraded round the village on October 31st at our Light Parade**

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> December 2024 at 11:00**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 at 11:00**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 11:00**



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

## Item of the month



*front*



*back*

A solid brass luggage label used by Lord Boyne to send items by train between Brancepeth Castle and his London home of 22 Belgrave Square.

This is just one of the items which can be seen in the Archive Room in Brancepeth Castle. Open on the first Saturday in every month 9am-1pm.



### **Salvation Army Christmas Appeal**

On Advent Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, we will be collecting gifts in support of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. These gifts are distributed to local families in genuine need and always a make tremendous difference to their Christmas celebrations. Please bring unwrapped gifts of toys, books, gifts for teenagers, sweets, and biscuits to church on Advent Sunday. If you need your contribution collecting speak to Janette in church or call 07587 225 200.

Thank you for your generous support.

Janette



Dear Friends,

A poem for Advent and Christmas called 'BC:AD' by U. A. Fanthorpe:

This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After, and future's  
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing  
Happened. Only dull peace  
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans  
Could find nothing better to do  
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment  
When a few farm workers and three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
into the kingdom of heaven.

The thing that strikes me first is the ordinariness the poem describes: nothing *Happened*; even the peace that existed was dull (now wouldn't that be good?); a census was being conducted in remote provinces (ordinary, everyday places, not important busy capital cities); a few ordinary farm workers and some foreigners were involved. So, I think this is all meant to apply to us in our ordinariness.

The second thing that strikes me is the repetition of the word 'moment'. The whole poem is focused on a single point in time, when BC became AD. So, I wonder if this is also meant to apply to us in our 'moments', our present time.

And therefore, whether we, like the farm workers or the foreigners, might find ourselves during this Advent and Christmas also walking, perhaps haphazardly, perhaps by following a star, straight into the kingdom of heaven.

With my best wishes for the season

Geoff

## St Brandon's December 2024 – Services and readings

*Sunday services are at 10:15am every week.*

**Livestreaming of services** If you are unable to join in person, you are welcome to join online for those services which are livestreamed (shown by \* below), or to view the recording later, at <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>

**\*Sun 1 Dec ADVENT SUNDAY Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Jane Stout Jeremiah 33: 14-16  
Gospel: Wilfred Foxe (Note change) Luke 21: 25-36  
Psalm 25: 1-9  
Intercessions Colin Waterman

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 2 Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Gillian Smellie Malachi 3:1-4  
Gospel: Edward Staines Luke 3:1-6  
Psalm Luke 1:68-79 (Benedictus)  
Intercessions James Morgan

**\*Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 3 Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Colin Waterman Zephaniah 3:14-end  
Gospel: Jean Hodgson Luke 3:7-18  
Psalm 146:4-end  
Intercessions Hester Higton

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec Advent 4 Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Tom Hobbs Micah 5:2-5a  
Gospel: Hester Higton Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]  
Psalm 80:1-8  
Intercessions Wilfred Foxe

**\*Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec Carol Service 6.30pm**

Readings / readers to be advised

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Eve Crib Service 5.00pm**

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.30pm**

Readings First: James Morgan Isaiah 9:2-7  
Gospel: Sue Morgan Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]  
Psalm 96

**\*Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Steve Hodgson Isaiah 52:7-10  
Gospel: Mike Higton John 1:1-14  
Psalm 98  
Intercessions Martin Peacock

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas 1 Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Janette Foxe 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Gospel: Kenneth Howe Luke 2:41-end  
Psalm 148  
Intercessions Edward Staines

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany Sunday Parish Eucharist 10.15am**

Readings First: Carys Funnell Isaiah 60:1-6  
Gospel: Jane Stout Matthew 12:1-12  
Psalm 72: [1-9], 10-15  
Intercessions Colin Waterman

**Sidespersons**

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Josie Armstrong  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Jean Hodgson & Sue Morgan  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Pat Sharples & Peter Bailey  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> (Carol Service 6.30pm) Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Crib Service 5.30pm Jeanette Metcalfe  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> (11.30pm) Sue Morgan  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout & Peter Bailey  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets  
Jan 5<sup>th</sup> Josie Armstrong & Jean Hodgson

**Flowers**

1st Advent Greening  
2nd Advent  
3rd Advent  
Guild  
Epiphany

**Coffee**

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Jeanette Metcalfe  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Alison Moore  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Catrin Morgan  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> (Carol Service)  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> (midnight)  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> (10.15am)  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Geraldine Jennings

**Tech Team**

Peter  
-  
Geoff & Alison  
-  
Geoff & Alison  
-  
Hester & Mike

## **Church Cleaning**

*December – Team B*

Sue Morgan, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson, Diane Cassap

*January – Team C*

Carole Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Janette Foxe

## **Vestry Report, November 2025**

<b>CELEBRATION OF LIFE</b>	<b>6th November 2024</b>	<b>Kathleen Margaret Joan Currie</b>
<b>INTERMENT OF ASHES</b>	<b>6th November 2024</b>	<b>Kathleen Margaret Joan Currie</b>
<b>INTERMENT OF ASHES</b>	<b>6th November 2024</b>	<b>William Alan Currie</b>

Events News: The church will be unavailable at the following times.

30<sup>th</sup> November 9am to 1pm

4<sup>th</sup> December 9am to 5pm

6<sup>th</sup> December from approx 2pm until a Concert at 7pm (see poster)

7<sup>th</sup> December 9am to 1pm

Thank you for your understanding.

Janette

## **Prayer Space December 2024**

### **Christmas**

**‘This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After. . .’** (U. A. Fanthorpe ‘BC:AD’)

### **Christmas prayer theme - contrasts**

- ❖ Those who love Christmas vs. those who find it unbearable
- ❖ Portal to a joyful life vs. occasion for unrestrained indulgence
- ❖ The power of weakness vs. the weakness of power

### **Christmas prayer focus – ordinary and extraordinary**

- ❖ Ordinary people, like Mary, Joseph and Jesus, whose lives today are changed by the political decisions of rulers and leaders
- ❖ The extraordinary coming of God in Jesus – Emmanuel, ‘God with us’

## **Book Club**

The next meeting will be on December 6th at Evelyn & Peter Aitken’s home, Raygill Farm, near Lartington DL12 9DG. We will be starting at 11.30am in order to take advantage of short daylight driving hours. We will be reading ‘The Raven & The Pine’ by S A Catteroll. In January the book to read is, ‘Away with the Penguins’, by Hazel Prior. We meet on Friday 17th January, at the home of Rosemary & Mark Monument, 7 Goodwell Lea at 7.30pm as usual.

All welcome Val Gibbons

## Partnership for Missional Church

This month sees the end of the diocesan-led part of the PMC process. We at St Brandon's have been involved with this over the past two and a half years. We were encouraged to look back at our history, to listen to each other and to the wider village community, to make a realistic appraisal of our context here, to develop some new habits. We've discovered – or re-discovered – our partnership with the many groups in the village. We all share a love for Brancepeth – the place and the people. And we all share a concern for the well-being of the community.

We have been reminded during these 2 years that 'God has a promised and preferred future' for our church within the community. And that this is not about 'keeping the church going' just for the sake of it. Rather, we hope to continue in the spirit of openness - to each other, to the community, and to the Holy Spirit. In case that just disappears into vague ideas, our next steps are to define what this might look like in practice over the next months and years. Then, if the PCC (the church governing body) accepts this, we will share it more widely, knowing that the PCC will monitor our progress and keep us on track.

Alison Moore (and the PMC Core Team)



COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE WITH CRAFT ACTIVITIES

ALL WELCOME!

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

WE WILL BE MEETING EVERY WEEK UP UNTIL SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER.

### Brancepeth Youth Club

December 2024

*The Youth Club is an Open Club run by the Church, and 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 the remainder of this term are:

#### December 1, 15

Leaders

Geoff Moore

07854 696664

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

Martin Peacock

07503 242074



## BCA 2024-25 Annual Subscriptions

Please remember to renew your BCA membership to support the Village Hall by **30th December**. It offers good value for money and helps our village maintain a splendid Village Hall. BCA members enjoy reduced ticket prices at events and lower hall hire charges. **Membership Rates:**

- Adult (18+): £8.50
- Concession (State Pension Recipients): £6.00
- Family (includes children under 18 living at home): £16.00

To renew or join, use the envelope provided in last month's newsletter or collect one from the Village Hall during your group's activities or Wednesday Coffee Mornings. Please return your envelope to the **Village Hall post-box** or to Val Gibbons **at 3 The Forge** (BCA Subscriptions Lead). If you can't renew using an envelope, volunteer collectors will visit early in the New Year. Thank you!

## Exhibition & Community Gathering

Following on from an event held in the summer by St. Brandon's Church for village groups, the BCA and Brancepeth Archives & History Group hosted an exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November **celebrating 100 years of the building's heritage**. The occasion provided an opportunity for village groups to come together and showcase their activities while warmly welcoming both old and new villagers. Sincere thanks to everyone involved.



## On Sale

### Brancepeth Village Hall Centenary Celebration



### Publication Celebrating 100 Years of our Village Hall!

A publication chronicling the 100-year journey of our Village Hall - from its inception and construction to its enduring legacy within our community - is now available for purchase. The BCA, Brancepeth Archives & History Group and villagers created this commemorative publication.

**£5 for BCA members/£7.50 non-members**

available at Wednesday Coffee Mornings or contact  
[brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:brancepethca@gmail.com) or [17vivienne@gmail.com](mailto:17vivienne@gmail.com)



### Capoeira Sunday Mornings – Village Hall

Capoeira is a Afro-Brazilian martial art that includes elements of dance, acrobatics & music – a great way to keep fit!

- Kids class (up to 13) - 10am to 11am - £5
- Adults and Teenagers - 11am to 12pm - £7

Block booking with reduced fees available.

All abilities welcome, no prior experience required.

We are also hosting a small grading event for our students on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December with Brazilian snacks and drinks from 12pm-1pm – please join us to learn more about the group and how you can become a part of it in 2025!

Contact Will for further info (07891 607839)

A winter night scene with a church and houses under a starry sky. The sky is dark blue with a large, bright, glowing yellow sun or moon in the center, surrounded by a swirling pattern of smaller stars. The ground is covered in snow, and the buildings are lit up with warm yellow light from their windows. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and festive.

# VOX POPULI

## IN THE STILLNESS

Choral music for Christmas

Friday 6 December | 7pm  
St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth  
Free with retiring collection

## Dates for the Diary:-

Dec Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Dec Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Dec Monday - Knit and Natter, 9th Village Hall, 2-4pm. Recommence 6th Jan  
Dec Tuesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, 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 - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall  
Dec Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Dec Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall  
Dec Sundays - Youth Club, 1st & 15th 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall  
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

Dec 6th Fri Vox Populi, 7.00pm, Church  
Dec 6th Fri Book Club, 11.30am, Raygill Farm, Lartington DL12 9DG  
Dec 7th Sat Village Christmas Show, Village Hall, 6.00pm  
Dec 9th Mon Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club  
Dec 15th Sun Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm  
Jan 17th Fri Book Club, 7.30am, 7 Goodwell Lea  
Jan 20th Mon Parochial Church Council, 7.30pm, No 1 The Village  
Jan 20th Mon Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Jan 31st Fri Garden Club Annual Supper, Golf Club, 7.00pm

## **Photos**

**Front cover** – ©- Nick Brooker. Christmas Card featuring The Three Kings.

**Inside front cover** – Volunteers planting bulbs ready for Springtime. Well done all!

©- Jean Hodgson – Garden Clear up Day featuring the newly recovered table tomb and the display of hand- made Christmas cards for sale at church ....which raised over £100. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the event - both the talented makers and the generous buyers.

**Inside back cover** – ©- Dean Maynard – Brancepeth Golf Club, Upcoming Events

**Back cover** – ©– Jo Dalton. Christmas Show Advertisement

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

**please. The printers close between Christmas & New Year.**

**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/StBrandon>)

## **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>		<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)



## BRANCEPETH CASTLE GOLF CLUB

### Upcoming Events

Saturday 21st December: Christmas Quiz Night. £9 Per Person. Includes food.

Saturday 11th January: Quiz Night. £9 Per Person. Includes food.

Room hire available at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club.

- \* Baby Showers
- \* Christenings
- \* Birthday Parties
- \* Wakes
- \* Corporate Room Hire

Email [sales@brancepeth-castle-golf.co.uk](mailto:sales@brancepeth-castle-golf.co.uk) for more information about room hire and the quiz nights.



## Brancepeth

# Christmas Show...ho ho ho



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Village Hall**

Doors open 6pm – Show starts 6:30pm



## Tickets

BCA members - Adult £8/ Child £4

Non-members £10/£5

**Includes: entrance, a drink, interval  
ice-cream & after show buffet**

Contact:

Josie Armstrong – 07882 233118 [jo.arm@me.com](mailto:jo.arm@me.com)

also available at Wednesday Coffee Mornings

