

Brancepeth Parish

Newsletter



Bishop of Durham designate, The Ven. Rick Simpson

March 2026

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



Creative Quiet Day

Brancepeth Castle, Durham
Saturday 21st March, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Creative Prayer for Beginners

Led by Claire Cullingworth

Collage, poetry, drawing, fabric and thread: all of these can help us deepen our connection to God and help us to pray.

Come and try something new, in a supportive setting. No experience or art skills needed.



£40.00 includes a simple lunch and tea/coffee breaks. 20% discount for those attending two or more quiet days in 2026.

Booking and more info: www.community-of-the-well.uk or email retreats@brancepethcastle.uk



Quiet Days & Retreats, 2026

Quiet Days:

February, Sat 21 Finding God in Threads and Patches

March, Sat 21 Creative Prayer for Beginners

April, Sat 25 Bible Stories Re-Worked

May, Sat 16 Creative Prayer for Beginners

July, Sat 18 Finding God in Threads and Patches

Contemplative Activity Retreats:

April, Thu 2 - Sun 5 Easter Retreat

Individually Guided Retreats:

May, Tue 26 - Sun 31 4-Day IGR

June, Fri 16 - July, Wed 1 4-Day IGR

Booking and more info: www.community-of-the-well.uk or email retreats@brancepethcastle.uk

From the Archive this month



A snare drum from the Durham Light Infantry regimental band Brancepeth was the headquarters of the D.L.I. from 1939 to 1962. 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.

Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	currently in vacancy
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Church Wardens:	Mike Higton (0191 5974675) Carol Beeby (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) colinwaterman069@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Vickie Jackson (0191 3783581) treasr@stbrandon.org.uk
Deanery Synod	Jane Stout (0191 3860618) Peter Bailey (0781772896)
Other members:-	
Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Kenneth Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589)	
Alison Moore (0191 373 5674), Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520) Hannah Pokhylko (07392958934)	
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Alison Moore (0191 373 5674).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Carol Beeby (07592 975002)
Organist	Peter Downey
Village Choir	Martyn Jones (0191 3789297)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), Valeria Dietz, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Church Hire coordinator	Janette Foxe events@stbrandon.org.uk .
Electoral Roll Officer	Jean Hodgson (jean.hodgson33@gmail.com)
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (0191 3902304 or 07729855076)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (07854 696664) Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Carol Beeby, Janette Foxe, Hester Higton, 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	www.stbrandon.org.uk

Newsletter entries no later than March 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,

Around this time last year I wrote about waiting and preparation for our new priest-in-charge, and this year as we approach the season of Lent again, interviews are taking place for the role of priest-in-charge of St Brandon's Church. I hope that there may be good news to announce on that front soon. Last year, I quoted a famous advert which said that good things come to those who wait...

This year I'm delighted to write about another Church of England appointment with a Brancepeth connection. After almost two years since the former Bishop of Durham retired (during which we have seen the election of a new Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope, national government and county council), Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of Durham will be the Venerable Rick Simpson, Archdeacon of Auckland, and before that, Priest-in-Charge of St Brandon's Brancepeth!

Rick isn't the first Rector of Brancepeth to become the Bishop of Durham; he follows John Cosin in the seventeenth century, who was, amongst other things, responsible for the famous oak woodwork in St Brandon's that was lost in the fire in 1998. Whilst much has changed since Cosin's time, the role remains one of the most senior in the Church of England with all the challenges, responsibilities and joys that come with it.

Many of you will know Rick and Rachel from their time in Brancepeth, and they remain recipients of this newsletter. You can hear what the appointment means to Rick in his own words in a video that he recently recorded in St Brandon's on the diocesan website: durhamdiocese.org. Later in the year, there will be the opportunity for our church and village to support Rick at his installation service at Durham Cathedral, but for now, if you are someone who prays, please pray for Rick and Rachel as they prepare for this next chapter of Rick's ministry.

With best wishes,

James Morgan



NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
BRANCEPETH ARCHIVES AND HISTORY GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place on

Friday 27th March 2026
in the Committee Room in the Village Hall.

Please arrive in good time for a prompt 7.00 p.m. start.

The Meeting is open to anyone who is interested in the work of the group but only members will be entitled to vote.

Membership for the year is £5.00 per person. If you would like to join or renew your membership for 2026, and didn't pay at the Social evening in January or at the November 2025 meeting, you are welcome to join at this meeting or by contacting Margot Harrison (3784813) or Vivienne Lowe (3780974).

If you live outside the Parish, you will also be asked to join Brancepeth Community Association.

The Archive Group is celebrating its 20th birthday this year. Following the meeting, there will be a short illustrated presentation recalling some of the events and activities of the Group since 2006.

Light refreshments will be available after the meeting

For further information please contact: Geoff Harrison, Tel: 0191 378 4813.

Willington Patients Participation Group (PPG) new members

The Willington PPG is looking for new members. PPG is a group of patients and GP practice staff who meet quarterly (2 hrs on a week day) to discuss practice issues and patient experiences. The purpose of a PPG is to improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients by bringing together the voices of patients and practice staff.

If you are interested in joining BPC please contact **James Dalton** via email (jimd1104@protonmail.com) and I will be happy to have an informal conversation with you to discuss the role further.

Men's Social
Village Hall
7pm
Friday 6th March
& 24th April

Fish Supper

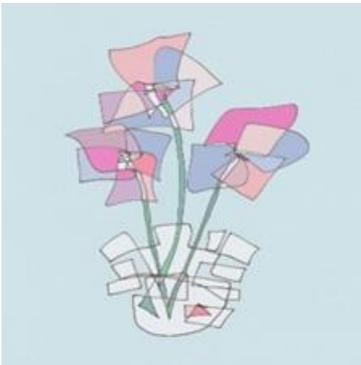
Pay as you eat and drink

£3 admission for hall hire.

Domino and Snooker games

Contact David Jackson

07711 648752



Beautiful Brancepeth Update

We really need your help to continue to keep our village beautiful!

- **Village Spring Tidy Up Day- Saturday 28th March 2026**

This year's Brancepeth Village **Spring Tidy Up Day** will take place on **Saturday 28th March**. We will be meeting at The Village Hall at 9.30am.

Refreshments at 1 The Forge at 11.30.

Pease come and help even if you can only spare half an hour.

If you are unable to help on the day but can spare some time to either litter pick, trim bushes or paint one of our village benches or join our Beautiful Brancepeth working group please get in touch with Karen Davison.

k.davison1960@hotmail.com

Garden Club

Spring Show 2026 SATURDAY 21 MARCH - A Fresh New Format!

We're thrilled to announce our Spring Show with an exciting new format designed to welcome everyone – from complete beginners to our experienced 'old hands'! This year's show celebrates the beauty of early spring flowers, with a special focus on daffodils, and we've made entering easier than ever. We've introduced beginner-friendly classes with flexible requirements alongside our traditional categories, so there's truly something for every level of gardener.

New this year: We're delighted to add an Easter celebration section featuring decorated eggs and, for the first time ever, **cake entries!** Adults can showcase their Easter baking skills while children aged 5-12 can enter decorated cupcakes. There will also be an on-site egg painting activity in the afternoon for all ages.

How to enter: The entry deadline is **Wednesday 18th March** (the Wednesday before the show).

Look out for our **QR code** in a subsequent email and on posters around the village – simply scan to submit your entries quickly and easily! Postal entries are also available.

Show day schedule:

From 10:30am: Set up - entrants to come to the village hall to meet the committee and arrange their entries

1pm: Judging commences

• **2pm:** Prize giving

• **2:15pm:** AGM followed by an exciting talk from our visiting judges

• Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share your spring garden treasures and join our community celebration. Whether it's your first time entering or you're a seasoned exhibitor, we can't wait to see what you bring!

• **Membership Subscriptions Due: Please remember to pay your membership subs!** Your subscriptions are essential to keeping the club running and funding the great events we all enjoy throughout the year.

• **New members:** If you'd like to join us, please contact enquiriesbgc@gmail.com

Important Date Correction: There was a typo in our last newsletter - the **Spring Show is definitely on 21 March.**

Upcoming Events: 21 March: Spring Show, **3 July:** Walkabout at Stockley Farm, **5 September:** Autumn Show

Plus many more events to come - we look forward to seeing you there in 2026!

Brancepeth Garden Club Dinner

I was very privileged recently to attend with my wife a most magnificent Dinner in the Village Hall so well organised by The Chair of the Club Helen Todman assisted by Josie Armstrong.

My wife in fact thanked me for taking her to such an enjoyable function, which was praise indeed.

The Hall was sympathetically decorated and lit with magnificent imposing Candelabras which really set off the tastefully decorated tables.

The fact that it was a black tie event made it that the men looked very smart and the ladies were at their best creating a wonderful atmosphere and hence the tone of the Dinner was extremely high.

The function commenced with a champagne reception with very tasty delicate canapes served by very professional staff who were well dressed in black.

The ambience of the occasion was enhanced by the playing of music by an excellent guitarist/singer.

The food was of the highest quality served by an outstanding chef.

The musician played throughout the meal and some sang along to well known tunes.

Chair Helen made an impressive speech which was aided by a PA system so everyone could hear her distinctly. Her husband Mark was very humorous and engaging and ran an absorbing quiz which entertained all those present and added to the enjoyment of the evening.

The function was an outstanding success and the price was extremely good

value for what was on offer.

Sincere congratulations must be extended to all those who organised and

administered such an excellent Dinner.

Kenneth Howe



Helen & Mark Todman

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will already be well into Lent. So, you may be well on your way, having attended the Ash Wednesday service, sorted out a Lent book to read, and attended the first of our Lent Groups (Wednesdays 2.00-3.30pm in the Castle, Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, come to any or come to all).

Or, of course, you may have done, or plan to do, none of those!

By way of encouragement, we have copies of the Church of England's reflections for Lent available in Church (drop £2.50 in the box). This year, the title is 'Draw near. Life-giving habits for Lent', and it contains 40 daily reflections each with a bible reading, a brief commentary and a response. We'll also be using this in our Lent Groups.

I was intrigued by the title of the booklet in that we often see Lent as a time for austerity, doing without, and penitence. And perhaps also as a time for *individual* self-reflection, so that, like Jesus, we are alone in the wilderness. But 'life-giving habits' suggests a more positive approach. And, indeed, the themes for each week back this up. They all begin with 'sharing', which immediately suggests that this is something we do *with* others rather than on our own.

The themes are sharing in: worship; prayer; the scriptures; communion; service; the Good News; Holy Week; and, finishing on Easter Day, resurrection. And, again as the title suggests, these are each life-giving habits.

In my sermon on the Sunday before Lent I spoke about mountain-top experiences and how they can change us. And I suggested that a Lenten wilderness-type experience could be the equivalent of a mountain-top experience as we seek to draw near to God.¹

But perhaps we might take the hint from the Church of England's booklet and extend this idea to make Lent more collaborative – something we do *together* rather than (just) on our own. Sharing our insights and experiences might help all of us to make best use of this Lenten season. So please do!

Geoff

¹ You can read sermons online <https://stbrandon.org.uk/blog/>, and this one was also recorded so you can watch and listen to it at <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>.

St Brandon's March 2026 – 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 for those services which are livestreamed (shown by * below), or to view the recording later, at <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>*

*Sun 1st March	2nd Sunday of Lent	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Gillian Smellie	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
	Gospel	Edward Staines	John 3:1-17
	Psalm		121
Intercessions		Richard Fenwick	
Sun 8th March	3rd Sunday of Lent	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	James Morgan	Exodus 17:1-7
	Gospel	Mike Higton	John 4:5-42
	Psalm		95
Intercessions		Colin Waterman	
*Sun 15th March	Mothering Sunday	Morning Worship	
Readings	First	Jean Hodgson	Colossians 3:12-17
	Gospel	Helen Elliot	John 19:25b-27
	Psalm		127:1-4
Intercessions		Edward Staines	
Sun 22nd March	5th Sunday of Lent	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Wilfred Foxe	Ezekiel 37:1-14
	Gospel	Steve Hodgson	John 11:1-45
	Psalm		130
Intercessions		Alison Moore	

*Sun 29th March	Palm Sunday	Parish Eucharist	
	First	Judith Minto	Philippians 2:5-11
	Gospel	Janette Foxe	Matthew 21:1-11
	Psalm		118:1-2, 19-end
Intercessions		Hester Higton	
7.30pm Monday 30th March	Monday of Holy Week		
	Gospel	Preacher	John 12:1-11
	Psalm		Psalm 36:5-11
7.30pm Tuesday 31st March	Tuesday of Holy Week		
	Gospel	Preacher	John 12:20-36
	Psalm		71:1-14
7.30pm Wed 1st April	Wednesday of Holy Week	Parish Eucharist	
	Gospel	Preacher	John 13:21-32
	Psalm		70

Sidespersons

Mar 1st Vera Melenets & Hanna Pokhylko
 Mar 8th Peter Bailey & Steve Hodgson
 Mar 15th Pat Sharples & Annette Johnson
 Mar 22nd Jean Hodgson & Josie Armstrong
 Mar 29th Diane & Gordon Cassap
 Apr 3rd (Good Friday) Sue Morgan
 Apr 5th Vera Melenets & Hanna Pokhylko

Flowers

2nd Lent
 3rd Lent
 Mothering Sunday
 5th Lent
 Palm Sunday
 Easter Sunday - Guild

Church Cleaning

March – Team B

Sue Morgan, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson, Diane Cassap

April – Team C

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Janette Foxe, Gillian Smellie

Coffee

Mar 1 st	Geraldine Jennings
Mar 8 th	Alison Moore
Mar 15 th	Jean Hodgson
Mar 22 nd	Annette Johnson
Mar 29 th	Diane Coles
Apr 5 th	Sue Morgan

Tech Team

Geoff & Alison
Peter
Hester & Mike
Geoff & Alison

Lent 2026 'Draw near'

Step aside and reflect during Lent.

A time of quiet and talk, prayer and discussion, music and reading . . . with coffee or tea of course.

Wednesday afternoons: Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25.

2 – 3.30 pm

Brancepeth Castle

Come to any or all – sessions are stand alone. No need to book.

Everyone is welcome.

'Draw Near' Lent booklets are available at the back of church (£2.50). Please take one for personal use, whether or not you join the group.

FLOWER GUILD - DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER FLOWERS

Donations towards the cost of the Easter flowers would be greatly appreciated as we would like to make the church look as beautiful as possible with our limited funds. The enclosed envelope can be delivered to any of the following Guild members or put in the church post box (near the visitor's book). Thank you for your continued support.

Jessie Brown: Kirkstone, The Forge

Hillary Moss: 1 Stockley Grove

Christine Jones: 32 Goodwell Lea

Lynne Hastie: 26 Goodwell Lea

THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL – What’s it all about?

The annual review of St.Brandon’s Electoral Roll is now due, and the up to date numbers on the Roll will be reported to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 26th April.

If you consider yourself to be a ‘regular’ at St.Brandon’s, then you should also consider being on the Electoral Roll – it is a parish church’s register of electors and being on the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) where you will play an important part in the day to day running of St.Brandon’s.

To apply to be included on St.Brandon’s Electoral Roll you must meet **ALL** the following conditions:

- You must be aged 16 or over
- You must be baptised.
- You must be a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England*) and
- EITHER live in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St.Brandon’s
- OR if you live outside the parish, you must have attended the church regularly for at least 6 months.

The application form and declaration will also provide more details regarding eligibility*, and will need to be completed by the **11th April 2026**.

If you are already on the Electoral Roll of St. Brandon’s you do not have to do anything further this year..... but if your contact details have changed in the last twelve months, it would be really helpful if you would let me know.

Forms are available from

Jean Hodgson

Electoral Roll Officer

07821004560/jean.hodgson33@gmail.com

Brancepeth Youth Club

March 2026

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 at 6.00-7.30pm, The dates for this term are:

March **8, 22**

Leaders

Geoff Moore 07854 696664 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

PCC news

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) last met on 19th January 2026.

A letter from the Durham-Lesotho Diocesan link was received thanking St. Brandon's for the £800 donation given to them annually. St. Brandon's also makes annual donations to the Children's Society, USPG, A Rocha and Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH).

The post of Priest in Charge has been re advertised, and by the time you receive this newsletter interviews will have taken place.

Several items concerning the fabric of the church were discussed and are ongoing including replacement of light bulbs; a replacement lighting panel which allows different areas of the church to be individually lit; and the removal of the old boiler house which is considered the most likely the cause of damp within the Neville Chapel.

Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) continue to work as a group and are proposing a wider church event on St. Brandon's Day which is Sunday 17th May.

Date for your diary

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 26th April 2026 in church at 11.30am.

All welcome.

Prayer Space - March

*Paradox –
a 'seemingly absurd or contradictory statement,
which may prove to be true'*

March feels like a month of **paradox**: Spring brings more light **and** winter weather stays gloomy; Lent suggests cutting down **and** nature bursts with growth; Easter is coming, with failure and death **and** life and hope.

Bible example: Most biblical imagery has light and dark as opposites, with light clearly 'good'. But the Old Testament prophet Isaiah sees a paradox here, and has God saying, 'I form the light **and** create darkness' (Is 45:7)

And St Paul writes about living with paradox, he was 'treated as . . . sorrowful **yet** always rejoicing; as poor, **yet** making many rich'; as having nothing **and yet** possessing everything' (2 Cor 6: 10)

Questions: What are the contradictions, or paradoxes, in your life and the lives of those you care about?

Can we be open to the truths held in the paradoxes?

Can we trust God with these?



Mothing Sunday at St. Brandon's

Please join us on

Sunday 15th March at 10.15am

**Morning Worship with Sunday school for children who enjoy a story
and craft activities**

**Posies provided by the Flower Guild for the ladies in the congregation
Please bring along unopened gifts of toiletries which will be taken to
the Durham Women's Refuge.**

**It would be lovely if you could bring your gift to the service but your
gifts can always be left in church beforehand. To make alternative
arrangements please contact Carol at carol21beeby@btinternet.com**

Churchyard Tidy-up

**It's that time again to bring out your ploughshares and pruning hooks. I plan a
churchyard tidy day on Saturday 11th April and would welcome volunteers to
spend an hour or three from 09.30 that morning. No experience necessary - turn
up and I'll find you a job. Please bring general gardening equipment if you have
it but, most importantly, bring yourselves. Refreshments will be provided at
11.00.**

Edward Staines

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.



Wednesday 11th & 25th March 2026 at 12:00
Wednesday *15th & 29th April 2026 at 12:00

**This is a 3 week spacing to allow for a week off after Easter.*

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



Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

4th March	Vivienne and Janiece
11th March	Margot and Val
18th March	Rosemary and Catherine
25th March	Martyn and Christine
1st April	Vivienne and Janiece

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

BCA Members Sunday Lunch

8th March

Brancepeth Village Hall

1.30pm

Menu

Local Roast Pork and Yorkshire Pudding

Garlic and Rosemary Roast Potato's

Creamed Potato

Mashed Swede

Carrots/Greens

Fruit Crumble and Ice Cream

Freshly Brewed Coffee & Chocolate Mints

Tickets £17 Adults Under 14's £9

Contact Josie Armstrong jo.arm@me.com

0788 22 33 118

?

Quiz Night

?

Village Hall

?

Friday 13th March

?

7.15pm

Teams 2 - 8

(Come on your own and join a team!)

Children welcome if they can entertain themselves

***Pie and Pea Supper (including Vegetarian)
(bring your own drinks)***

£10 BCA Members

£12 Non Members

Children £5 pizza & ice cream

Tickets from Josie Armstrong jo.arm@me.com

0788 22 33 118

Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Donations

The PC was pleased to confirm the continuation of its £250 contribution towards the running of the Parish Newsletter. Councillors recognise that this publication remains the most widely consulted source of information across the parish and are grateful for the dedication of the Editor (thanks Sue!) and the distribution team.

State of the village

There are several things to report here:

First, the A690 as it runs through Brancepeth. Although potholes are being tackled fairly regularly, these are only temporary fixes. However, long term resurfacing, while on the future radar for DCC, remains too expensive to undertake in the short term (DCC estimates costs of over £100 per square meter!). We are at least assured there are no immediate safety concerns.

Second, we are pleased to note that the DCC 'Clean & Green' Team have cleared the footpath between the Village and Stockley Grove.

Third, there will be another Village Tidy Up on Saturday 28th March, meeting at 9.30 at the Village Hall, with refreshments to follow for any of you noble volunteers!

Fourth, subject to Highways Dept approval, the Beautiful Brancepeth sub-group will embark on a project to replace the planting beside the white gates at the entrances to the village with some ground level, more sustainable planting. We hope to move the existing flower troughs to outside the castle gates.

Fifth, although a date is still TBC, the BB committee are also seeking volunteers to clean and repaint the railings at the entrance to the Village Hall. Materials have already been kindly donated.

Sixth, the difficult decision has been taken not to enter the Northumbria in Bloom competition this year, and to focus upon keeping the village clean and tidy whilst seeking greater engagement from residents. However, the BB group agreed to continue to support special site entries e.g. allotments, Golf Club and St Brandon's if they wished to enter NIB independently; as well as collaborating with the Garden Club to support the national open garden scheme.

Local Policing

A couple of things to report:

We note continuing concerns over speeding on the A690, especially where it is joined by Stockley Lane; and so we are requesting that the police undertake another speed survey from May 2026. We shall be asking them for as much detailed information from this survey as possible in order to determine times and specific locations of any vehicles breaking the speed limit.

Our two local police constables attended the coffee morning last week. The 'Beat Team' are PC 2867 Larter (steven.larter@durham.police.uk) and PC 2314 Wilson (helen.wilson@durham.police.uk), both based at the Framwellgate Moor Office. Should you have any crime-related issues, their contact details are also logged in the Guest Book in the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Plan

The DCC has (at last!) formally acknowledged the receipt of all our NP documentation and is now checking everything is valid. They will then update us on the review process. We shall continue to monitor progress; and chase them up if necessary.

Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 16th March 2026** at 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:

clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

Book Club

On Friday 27th March, we will meet at Sue Morgan's home, Peppermires, at 7.30 p.m. The book is, "Persuasion", by Jane Austen. If you have a suggestion for the April meeting, please bring it along.

All welcome, Val Gibbons.

GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE COLLECTIONS CAN RESTART

I'm pleased to report that GNAAS are now using 'clothesaid' to raise money from unwanted goods. There is a very wide range but to restart what I was doing during Covid I shall use the newsletter to say which goods and when so that I'm not overwhelmed. If you are needing to clear out a lot of stuff please get in touch and I can give you a full list with contact numbers.

Monday, 16th till Thursday 19th March

Please bring any of the following items to the garage of 2 Foxes' Row but remember to ring first so that I can open up . I do have GNAAS bags if you need them. Heavier items could be in cardboard boxes. Allee Longstaff - 01913780707 / 07769530525

All clothing (NO socks or underwear) + Books + CDs, DVDs, Video Games,

Dates for the Diary:-

Mar Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar Monday - Knit and Natter, 2nd, 16th & 30th Village Hall, 2-4pm.
Mar Tuesdays - Village Community Choir, 7.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
Mar Wednesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
Mar Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Mar Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Mar Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
Mar Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Mar Sunday - Youth Club, 8th & 22nd, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

Mar	6th	Fri	Men's Social, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Mar	8th	Sun	BCA Sunday Lunch, 1.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	13th	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Mar	15th	Sun	Mothering Sunday Lunch, 12pm -2.00pm, Golf Club
Mar	16th	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	21st	Sat	Garden Club Spring Show, Village Hall
Mar	27th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Peppermires Cottage
Mar	27th	Fri	Archives & History Group, AGM & presentation, 7.00pm VH
Mar	28th	Sat	Village Spring Tidy Up, 9.30am, Village Hall
Mar	29th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm, Church
Apr	11th	Sat	Church Yard Tidy-Up, 9.30am onwards, churchyard
Apr	24th	Fri	Men's Social, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Apr	26th	Sun	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 11.30am, Church
June	20th	Sat	Brancepeth Village Open Gardens Event
July	3rd	Fri	Garden Club Walkabout, Stockley Grove
Sept	5th	Sat	Garden Club Autumn Show, Village Hall

Photos

Front cover – ©- Durham Diocesan Board of Finance: Bishop of Durham designate, The Venerable Rick Simpson.

Inside front cover – ©- Alison Hobbs: Community of the Well Events

© - Archive & History group: Item of the Month.

Inside back cover – ©- Brancepeth Golf Club: Mother's Day Lunch

Back cover – ©– Carol Beeby: Advert for children's March activities in church.

Newsletter entries no later than March 18th please.

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

View newsletter on line at 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 & Bookings</i>	Jean Merrington	
		Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>
Val Gibbons	<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>Church Representative</i>

www.brancepethcommunityassociation.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	Val Gibbons, valmgibbons@gmail.com (0191 3784200)
Social Secretary	Josie Armstrong, jo.arm@me.com / 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	James Morgan (Chair), Richard Hobbs (Sec), Martin Welsh (Treas) baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (0191 3784200)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (0191 3782748)
Garden Club	Helen Todman (Chair) helentodman@googlemail.com or Secretary, Martin Welsh m.welsh@reflex-technical.com
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

Thomas Hobbs, Chair: tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk
Nick Ellis - Vice chair; n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk
Philip Davison, philipdavison000@btinternet.com
Catherine Stevenson: catherine@jamsey.net
Julie Daneshyer: jh.daneshyer@hotmail.com
Martin Welsh: m.welsh@reflex-technical.com

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

County Councillors: Cathy Hunt & Emma Hunt www.brancepeth-parish-counc



BRANCEPETH CASTLE
— GOLF CLUB —

SUNDAY MARCH 15TH

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

12PM - 2PM

2 COURSES

STARTERS

SWEET POTATO
BUTTERNUT SQUASH
SOUP.

PRAWN COCKTAIL

£14.95

MAINS

YOUR CHOICE OF
SUCCULENT CHICKEN
OR TENDER BEEF.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

*ORDER A BOTTLE OF PROSECCO
FOR ONLY £19.95



To secure your spot, please sign up via the clubhouse bar, call us 0191 378 0075 or email us via sales@brancepeth-castle-golf.co.uk



this month is on

SUNDAY 29th March

3 - 5 PM IN CHURCH

Come and join in the fun with

news**games**bible story**songs**tea



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 UNTIL SUNDAY 29TH MARCH