

Brancepeth Parish Newsletter



November 2026

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

BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB



AT BRANCEPETH VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

1.30pm ★ 4.30pm



A GLASS
OF FIZZ



A FESTIVE
AFTERNOON TEA



ALL MATERIALS
INCLUDED

TICKETS
➤ **£49** ◀

➤ *Spaces are limited* ◀
— ALL WELCOME —

For further details or to book a place
contact Josie on 0788 2233118
or e-mail jo.arm@me.com

Parochial Church Council

Rector Rev'd Dr Ros Lane (07803114732 or brancepethrector@gmail.com)
Associate Minister Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Church Wardens Mike Highton (0191 5974675), James Morgan (0191 4476520)
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)
Richard Fenwick

Other members:-

Carol Beeby (07592 975002) Diane Coles (07754958341), Timothy Elliot (0191 3896653, 07932 159548), Kenneth Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589) Judith Minto (07905645674), Alison Moore (0191 373 5674), Hannah Pokhylko (07392958934)

Reader Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Prayer Team Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Alison Moore (07890 733757).
Helen Elliot, Judith Minto
Sunday School Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church Carol Beeby (07592 975002)
Organist Peter Downey
Village Choir Martyn Jones (0191 3789297)
Sacristans Carol Beeby (07592 975002)
Valeria Dietz, Martin Peacock, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Church Hire coordinator Diane Coles events@stbrandon.org.uk.
Electoral Roll Officer Jean Hodgson (jean.hodgson33@gmail.com)
Flower Guild Lynne Hastie (07709 239677)
Churchyard Edward Staines (0191 3902304 or 07729855076)
Youth Club Geoff Moore (07854 696664) Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team Rev'd Dr Ros Lane, Carol Beeby, Janette Foxe, Hester Highton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Geoff Moore, Martin Peacock.
Admin Team Mike Highton (chair), Rev'd Dr Ros Lane, Carol Beeby, Diane Coles, Janette Foxe, Sue Morgan, Gillian Smellie.
PMC Team: Rev'd Dr Ros Lane, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Alison Moore, James Morgan, Sue Morgan, Jane Stout, Colin Waterman.
Fabric: James Morgan (chair), Rev'd Dr Ros Lane, Richard Fenwick, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines, George Rae
Website www.stbrandon.org.uk

Newsletter entries no later than November 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 Highton on hesterhighton@phonecoop.coop.

Dear Friends

November marks the season of Remembrance in the life of the Church and nation. As a child I remember the school autumn fair with apple bobbing, parkin and black treacle toffee which my Nan used to make for us to sell, and keep dentists in business. On 31st October from 5 to 6 pm Messy Church will be facilitating a light parade for all children. Please do come along and invite your neighbours' children and grandchildren. I was a Brownie and Guide and so we would process to the village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, wrapping up warm beneath our uniforms, and I would spend time wondering what this was all about. I would watch the TV highlights of the Cenotaph and, on the evening before, the Festival of Remembrance with my Nan.

As a teenager, November began to have a different tone as I visited fireworks parties and a huge bonfire on our local disused railway track. As a Venture Scout, we'd join parade to the Cathedral, and I'd listen to stories about those who served in the Falklands war. It was only then that I began to understand why the nation stopped and was silent. This year at St Brandon's we will be remembering and giving thanks for all those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces and in particular all those who lost loved ones in the face of war and violence. We will also be praying for those involved in inter-state war and regional conflicts, civil wars and insurgencies, praying for an end to war and violence and for peace, justice and understanding between peoples. St Brandon's Services will be Parish Eucharist at 10.15am with the laying of wreaths at the war memorial, and Choral Evensong at 4pm sung by St John's College Choir. On Armistice Day the Church will be open as always for quiet reflection.

As an adult, the Season of Remembrance has taken on a more spiritual and religious significance as I attended and then led Eucharists on All Saints' Day, where we remember the great saints of old, people who did extraordinary things in Biblical times, such as the apostles, or Saint Paul, and people down the ages: Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Avila, William Tyndale, Edward the Confessor, or Oscar Romero in recent times. We call this the kingdom season because these saints point us towards God's kingdom as it unfolds before us down the ages. All Souls' Day (2nd November at 7pm) gives us a very different perspective. We remember ordinary people who have in their own way pointed us to God's kingdom and who have gone before us for many reasons, helping to remind ourselves that our lives are short. We remember them as people who continue to encourage us with passion, with vision, with courage, with enquiring minds, with humour, and with love, even though they were also flawed. If you would like to join us at this service there will be an opportunity for you to remember your loved ones who have gone before us and hear their name read, light a candle, bring flowers to the Neville chapel and see their name in the Book of Remembrance, as well as giving thanks for them through the receiving of Communion.

With Every Blessing

Ros, Rector of St Brandon's

Parish Council NEWS October 2026

Neighbourhood Plan – PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR VOTE!

Parishioners should by now have received their Poll Cards for the forthcoming Referendum, where the question will be: **Do you want Durham County Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Brancepeth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?** As per various notices around the parish, voting will take place between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on **Thursday 5th November 2026** in the Village Hall. You will need to bring some photographic ID.

We know the Neighbourhood Plan has been extensively publicised over the last couple of years, but if you would like to take a further look at the proposed plan before voting, the referendum notice, information statement and referendum version of the NP are published on the DCC's webpage: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/18184/Neighbourhood-planning-what-s-happening>. A hard copy of the NP is also available in the Village Hall.

All the necessary details should be found on the DCC and PC websites, including Background Papers explaining the proposed policies for Local Green Spaces, Protected Open Spaces and the Village Envelope. Nevertheless, if you want further clarification on any issue, then please email our Clerk who can direct your query to the relevant Parish Councillor.

State of the Village/ Beautiful Brancepeth

The Parish Council received an update on the BB Working Group from Councillor Daneshyar who confirmed that the next village Tidy Up was planned for Saturday 24th October 2026. Spring bulb planning for the village tubs was underway and an order for bulbs would be sent to the Clerk. It was noted that the land outside of Station House was overgrown again. The Clerk confirmed that the issue had been escalated to County Councillor Hunt who had chased a response from DCC.

Councillor Hunt acknowledged that there had been a delay with the replacement white gates installations on the village boundaries; however, she confirmed the funding application had been approved. Happily, we do now have a smart, black multi waste bin installed on Wolsingham Road to replace the old red one.

With regards to speeding on the A690, Councillor Hunt has arranged for some targeted work to be undertaken by Durham Constabulary in the area, in addition to a speed survey. She has observed that overhanging trees were obscuring road signs, and therefore has requested the County Council to trim branches to reveal the existing speed reduction measures.

Date of Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 16th November 2026 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend but it would be helpful if you could let our Clerk know in advance to manage seating: clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE AND HISTORY GROUP

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

7.15p.m. for a prompt 7.30p.m. start.

The last talk in the year will be in the village hall on
Friday November 20th, 7.30pm by Richard Pears.

"The British Necessary - a history of toilets!"

From indoor toilets in Orkney 5000 years ago to medieval garderobes and, of course, Thomas Crapper - the talk reveals the long history of the smallest room!

Members £2.00, Guests welcome £5.00. Tea and coffee included.

....and a date for your next year's diary

Friday 22nd January 2027 in the Village Hall, our "post Christmas"
get together.

In addition to the usual refreshments and opportunity to socialise, there will be two presentations by members on the theme of "Local Restoration Projects"!

FROM THE
ARCHIVE
THIS MONTH



Two jewels from the Brancepeth Castle Branch (no. 2599) of the

Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos

(this branch no longer exists)

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.

Durham Food Bank

Durham Food Bank is facilitated by the Durham Christian Partnership, and run by volunteers. As well as providing emergency food to individuals and families in the local community, it provides debt/household energy advice to those in financial crisis.

Food Bank referrals come from agencies such as social services, health professionals, care support workers, Housing Associations, and the police. Vouchers are given to users for up to six months, for nutritionally balanced food parcels from dedicated Food Banks.

The Food Bank relies on donations of non-perishable food. At St. Brandon's, these can be left in the Yellow Bin at the back of the church, suggested items are listed on the bin. You can also log into durhamfoodbank.org.uk – look under support us; donate food – this will list urgently required items, and those which the Food Bank has plenty of. Needed now are: long-life juice and milk, **tinned items** – fruit, rice pudding, custard, potatoes, and jam/preserves, coffee, toilet rolls, and toiletries. Yellow Bin contents are emptied weekly and taken to Brandon Community Hall Food Bank for their weekly Tuesday afternoon sessions.

Client numbers are increasing due to high living costs and colder weather, so if you can, please support the Food Bank.

Thank you. Pat Sharples



to help keep St. Brandon's looking clean as well as beautiful!

In order to achieve this we have a paid cleaner to do three hours cleaning one week every month.

In between times we have three volunteer teams, ideally consisting of four people, to ensure the church remains clean. Each team covers every third month.

We are looking for people to increase the number of our cleaning team volunteers.

If you feel you would like to be part of one of our cleaning teams please contact Carol on 07592975002 or email carol21beeby@btinternet.com for more information.



Modernising membership of the Brancepeth Community Association

The BCA Management Committee is proposing to modernise the Association's membership arrangements to make membership **simpler, more inclusive and aligned with the purpose of the Association.**

Our Constitution states that the Association exists ***“to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Brancepeth and the neighbourhood.”*** We believe this means that everyone living within the Association's area of benefit should have the opportunity to be part of the Association and have a voice in the future of the Village Hall.

What is proposed?

- **Residents aged 18 and over** living within the BCA's area of benefit would **automatically** become members of the Community Association, with the **same voting rights that existing paid members have in accordance with its constitution.**
- **Under-18s** living in the area of benefit would become automatic Junior Members.
- There would be **no annual BCA membership subscription fee.** This would reduce the administration involved in collecting subscriptions and ensure that membership is open and accessible to everyone living within the Association's area of benefit.
- All hall hire categories would increase by £1 per hour, which **will replace the income currently generated by annual membership subscriptions.**
- For those who would like to make a direct financial contribution towards the running and investment costs of the Hall, a **voluntary donation scheme** would also be available and details of this will follow shortly.

Why are we proposing this? The Hall is a community facility used by a wide range of people and groups, and we believe the Association's membership arrangements should reflect this. **Annual subscriptions now represent a relatively smaller proportion of the Association's overall income, while collecting them continues to require a disproportionate amount of administration by our volunteers, particularly as the number of concessionary memberships has increased over recent years.** We therefore believe there is an opportunity to simplify the membership arrangements while reducing the administrative burden associated with collecting subscriptions.

The proposed changes would:

- make membership **simpler and more inclusive.**
- give all residents within the area of benefit the opportunity to participate in the Association.
- remove the administration associated with annual membership subscriptions.
- retain existing voting rights for adult members, ensuring all residents have a voice in how the Association and Village Hall is run and its future; and

- provide an opportunity for those who **wish to contribute financially, through a voluntary donation scheme.**

Have your say – The proposed change has been discussed with BCA Sections and other key Hall user groups. The change is intended to modernise and simplify the way BCA membership works and will not change the fundamental purpose or principles of the Association.

Sections and other Groups will continue to be inclusive and open to everyone who wishes to participate, including people who live outside the BCA's area of benefit. The proposed membership change does not alter the way Sections and other Groups currently operate, organise their activities or involve their members/participants. **Importantly, there is no proposed change to the fundamental purpose of the Association as set out in the Constitution – to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Brancepeth and the neighbourhood as well as running and maintaining the Village Hall.**

Further information is available on the Committee Room Noticeboard in the Village Hall. A **General Meeting will be held on 26th November 2026, 6:30pm** when existing members will have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and vote on the proposed amendment.



Save the Date – advance notice!

Saturday 26th June 2027, Brancepeth Village Open Gardens Event

Following the great success of previous held Open Gardens events, the BCA is delighted to announce partnering with the **National Garden Scheme (NGS)** to host another Open Gardens event in June 2027.

We are now looking for villagers who would be willing to open their gardens and be part of this very special community occasion. Gardens of all shapes, sizes and styles are welcome - you don't need to have a "show garden" to take part!

Opening your garden is a lovely way to share your gardening enthusiasm with others, and one of the most enjoyable parts of the day is meeting the visitors who come to Brancepeth, chatting with them and seeing them enjoy the gardens. It really is a joyful and sociable occasion for everyone involved.

The event is only possible thanks to the generosity of garden owners who open their gates, together with the many volunteers who help with marshalling, baking delicious treats and running the ever-popular tea shop, which provides a great fundraising opportunity for the upkeep of the Village Hall. Also, thanks to the Castle for facilitating car parking on the village side of the Castle grounds.

Alison Young is kindly leading on the gardening side of the event, and this initial update is a request to anyone in the village who would be willing to open their gardens. Thank you!

If you would like to open your garden, please contact Alison Young at: gfamyoung@gmail.com

NEW CLUB • GET INVOLVED

PICKLEBALL STARTS HERE.

BRANCEPETH PICKLEBALLS

Meet. Play. Find your next favourite game.

A NEW WAY TO PLAY. A NEW CLUB TO JOIN.

Looking for something different?

Discover pickleball and get involved from the start.

WHERE: Village Hall

WHEN: To be Decided (Probably Wednesday evenings)

STARTS: January 2027

Contact Martin or Hassall to find out more

Martin Welsh / m.welsh@reflex-technical.com

Hassall Balshen / hassall.balshen@gmail.com / 07803 270560

Saturday 17th October saw the church filled with the sound of brass!



The audience were treated to a wide selection of music ranging from marches to musicals, folk songs to film themes ending with a selection of sign-a-long songs. The Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band were led by Mike Priestley, the conductor, who

interacted with his audience with panache.

It is the first time in all the many excellent concerts I have been to since the rebuilding of St Brandon's, that a standing ovation was given. They really were that good.

With a bit of luck, they will be appearing in Brancepeth again in the future. If you were there tonight you will be undoubtedly exceedingly happy and if you missed it, you will be able to take the opportunity to find out what we loved.

Richard Jackson

Photograph of Diane Coles (Events Co-ordinator) with Mike Priestley and the Band. – Taken by Alison Hobbs.

Can we avoid the clashes?

The weekend of 16th, 17th and 18th October saw a plethora of good events taking place in the village and it was hard to share ourselves around.

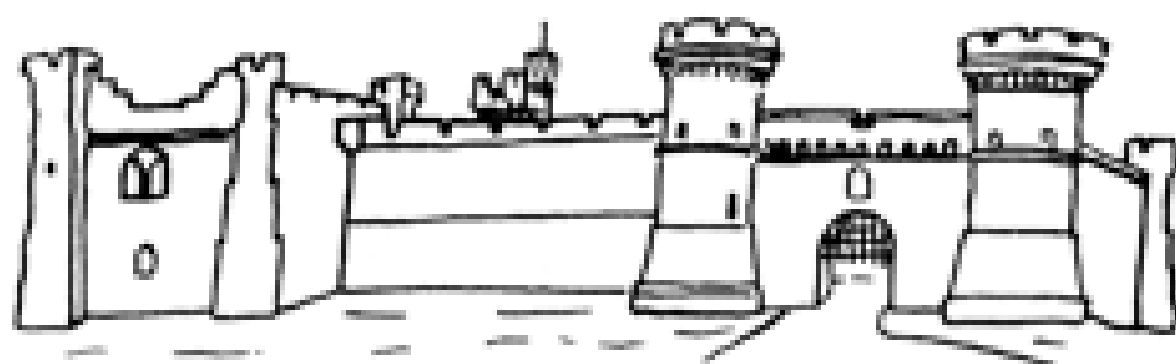
Could the lovely hard working people who act as booking secretaries for the Castle, the Church, Garden Club, Archive and History Group, Golf Club, and the Village Hall get together to provide a calendar for public events in Brancepeth. Having lived here for over forty years this is the umpteenth time things have clashed.

I was really sorry to miss the Garden Club event that weekend and am quite happy to facilitate a meeting with the Secretaries to get things moving and prevent a yet another recurrence.

Please contact me on the email address below

Richard Jackson pinetops18@icloud.com

BRANCEPETH CASTLE



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

27-29 November 2026

Fri, Sat 10am-5pm; Sun midday-5pm

*Quality items and artisan products, direct from
the crafters who designed and made them*

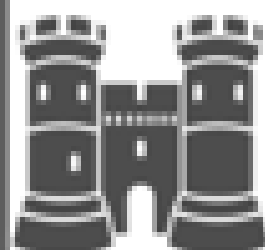
Glasswork	Fine Art	Woodturning
Pottery	Clothing	Jewellery
Leatherwork	Gifts	Confectionery

Buy tickets at 'brancepethcastle.uk/book'
tickets also available on the gate

The First Hour: £5.50 (£5 Age 66+)

After First Hour: £4.50 (£4 Age 66+)

Accompanied Under 14: FREE



Parking Available • Service Dogs Only • DH7 8DE - 4 miles WEST of Durham

BRANCEPETH CASTLE

2026 CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

27th – 29th November

We are delighted to invite you to the Brancepeth Castle Craft Christmas Fair.

It's a privilege to host artisans and makers from across the North East and it wouldn't be possible without the support from the village, in appreciation for your continued support of the castle, we'd like to offer you free tickets for the upcoming fair. Please use the code:

'BRANCEPETH' for FREE tickets for village residents (after 2pm).

To use this offer, tickets must be booked in advance at brancepethcastle.uk/book or via the Ticketsource box office 0333 666 3366

CHRISTMAS CARDS – STOP PRESS

If you are thinking about buying your Christmas cards soon, you might like to consider choosing some from the seasonal selection of printed cards that will be going on sale in at St.Brandon's from mid-November!

Jean Hodgson

Brancepeth Youth Club

Nov -Dec 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:

Nov 1, 15, 29

Dec 13

Leaders

Geoff Moore 07854 696664 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

St Brandon's November 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 November	The Feast of All Saints	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Alison Moore	Revelation 7:9–end
	Gospel	Linda Waterman	Matthew 5:1–12
			Psalm 34:1–10
Intercessions		Colin Waterman	
Mon 2nd November	Feast of All Souls	Eucharist 7pm	
Readings	First	Sue Morgan	Wisdom 3:1–9
	Gospel	Jean Hodgson	John 6:37–40
Intercessions		Alison Moore	
Sun 8th November	Remembrance Day	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Richard Devonshire	Wisdom 6:12–16
	Gospel	Edward Staines	Matthew 25:1–13
	Psalm		Psalm 70
Intercessions		Wilfred Foxe	
Sun 8th November	Remembrance Day	Choral Evensong 4pm	
		St John's College Chapel Choir	
		Leader Rev'd Dr Ros Lane	
*Sun 15th November	Second Sunday Before Advent	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Hannah Pokhylko	Zephaniah 1:7, 12–end
	Gospel	Gillian Smellie	Matthew 25:14–30
	Psalm		Psalm 90:1–8,12
Intercessions		Alison Moore	
Sun 22nd November	Feast of Christ the King	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	James Morgan	Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
	Gospel	Mike Higton	Matthew 25:31–end
	Psalm		Psalm 95:1–7

Intercessions		Richard Fenwick	
*Sun 29th November	Advent Sunday	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Wilfred Foxe	1 Corinthians 1:3–9
	Gospel	Steve Hodgson	Mark 13:24–end
	Psalm		Psalm 80:1–8, 18–20
Intercessions		James Morgan	
Sun 6th December	2nd Sunday of Advent	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Janette Foxe	tbc
	Gospel	Jane Stout	Mark 1: 1-8
	Psalm		85: 1-2, 8-13
Intercessions		Helen Elliot	

Sidespersons

Nov 1st Vera Melenets & Hanna Pokhylko
Nov 2nd (7pm) Sue Morgan & Jean Hodgson
Nov 8th Peter Bailey & Annette Johnson
Nov 15th Sue Morgan & Josie Armstrong
Nov 22nd Steve & Jean Hodgson
Nov 29th Pat Sharples & Richard Fenwick
Dec 6th Vera Melenets & Hanna Pokhylko

Flowers

Sue Knight

Diane Coles
Eileen Crawford
Lynne Hastie
Guild (1st Advent)
Guild

Coffee

Nov 1st Sue Morgan
Nov 8th Diane Coles
Nov 15th Jeanette Metcalfe
Nov 22nd Alison Moore
Nov 29th Gerry Jennings
Dec 6th Jean Hodgson

Tech Team

Alison & Geoff

Peter

Peter

Church Cleaning

November – Team A

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Pat Sharples, Jane Stout

December – Team B

Sue Morgan, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson, Alison Hobbs

From the Registers

Anthony Griffiths RIP

22nd March 1941–27th September 2026

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Coming up at St Brandon's

Welcome to Milena James, who is on placement with us at St Brandon's. Milena comes to us from Cranmer Hall and is training for ordination, sponsored by the Diocese of Newcastle. Her home parish is in Morpeth in Northumberland.

Welcome, too, to Ian Mack, who is a student at Durham in Chemistry. He will join our ever-increasing number of organists who play on a Sunday morning at St Brandon's. Ian was a former student at King's Ely, where our Rector was Chaplain for 10 years.

Please do make them feel at home in the usual Brancepeth way.

Looking ahead.....



Season of Advent

I invite you to join me online to pray the office of Compline together at 9pm on
Sunday 29th November
Sunday 6th December
Sunday 13th December
Sunday 20th December

Compline is also known as Night Prayer and is a contemplative service performed at the end of the day. The tradition of saying or singing compline goes back to at least the 6th century, possibly earlier. It would have been said in people's homes and monasteries and convents throughout the world.

There will be orders of service available for you to collect in Church from 29th November onwards and the Zoom link will be posted on the church website each week. This will be a time for reflection, lighting a candle, prayer and a cup of hot chocolate warmth of your own home. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas is coming . . .

Please note new times for Christmas Services at St Brandon's
20th December 6.30pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve **4pm** Crib Service
Christmas Eve **11pm** Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10.15am Parish Eucharist

Please do bring along your families, friends and neighbours
Rev'd Dr Ros Lane



Invitation



You are invited to

St Brandon's Church Brancepeth

Service of Commemoration on All Souls' Day

on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7.00pm

During the service we remember those who have died, and a list of their names will be read out. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. To add a name please write on the list in church or contact Alison Moore

07890 733757 moorealisonm21@gmail.com

Remembrance Sunday Choral Evensong 4pm

St John's College Chapel Choir will be making their annual visit to St Brandon's for a Choral Evensong on Remembrance Sunday. The choir look forward to their visits and the resultant service is always worth attending. Do come along and give these lovely young singers your support. After their rehearsal we provide light refreshments for the choir. If you can help by donating a plate of food please speak to Janette.

Eucharist

We have a Eucharist service most Tuesdays, in the Castle chapel, typically around

Midday, and all are welcome. Contact Alison Hobbs, 07504489089 for information.



Salvation Army Christmas Appeal



St Brandon's is once again helping the Salvation Army with their Christmas Appeal. As you begin your own Christmas preparations please spare a thought for those less fortunate and bring a gift to church on Advent Sunday (29 November). Below is a list of suggested gifts. If you can't be in church

on Advent Sunday please call Janette (07587 225 200) to arrange collection.

Suggested Gift List for Children and Young People

We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal.

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- **3-5:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12:** games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16:** books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

Over the years, millions of children and young people have benefited from gifts donated to The Salvation Army.

By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas.

Shoebox Sunday on October 11th

Thank you so much to all those within the Community and Congregation who donated items for our Shoebox Sunday collection. Some provided completed boxes and others a selection of useful 'Essentials' or gifts and items to make people living in poverty and hardship miles away feel loved and valued in their challenging lives in Eastern Europe. We are also very grateful to the band of knitters who provided two huge sacks of items: hats, gloves/mitts and scarves. At the Parish Eucharist we brought completed boxes to the Altar for prayer, and then children at Messy Church later in the afternoon had a wonderful shopping experience!



After hearing the Bible Story from Martin the children were encouraged to shop for a particular gender and age group by selecting key essentials (toothpaste/brush, soap, hat, scarf, gloves, underwear etc) before finding other thoughtful gifts which were laid out in piles on the tables. Empty shoe boxes had been covered already in Christmas wrapping but we were able to decorate them further and make cards for the recipients. In total we produced 38 complete boxes plus remaining spare items to take to the depot in Darlington (we ran out of boxes! Please save shoeboxes throughout the year!)

We had great fun, Messy News from the children was followed by tea before going home.

We would love other children to join with us from 3-5pm once a month in Church. Do you have children, neighbours, grandchildren who might like to come along? Our next meeting is 15th November.

Many Thanks, Ros, Carol, Martin, Linda, Jane, Milena and Cat .

Activities for children at St. Brandon's



Messy Church is run monthly where children bring along an adult and join in the fun.

Stories, activities, songs and tea.

This month we are meeting Sunday 15th November 3 - 5pm in church.

AND



Sunday school at our 10.15 am service.

We leave the service after the first hymn, and rejoin for Communion and show everyone what we have made so they can see what fun we have had.

We look forward to seeing you.



Saturday

31st

October

5.00pm - 6.00pm

Light Parade

starts and ends at Brancepeth Village Hall

fancy dress parade *** treat trail
hot chocolate***

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring along a container for your treats.

If you'd like the parade to call at your house please let Carol know by speaking to her in church; texting on 07592975002; or emailing on carol21beeby@btinternet.com.



What do we mean by Grace?

Hosted by Emmanuel Church, join acclaimed theologian and expert in Paul's letters Professor John Barclay to explore what grace really means.

Professor John Barclay is a renowned Pauline scholar with a specialism in Paul's theology of grace. Christians of all persuasions recognise the centrality of grace to Paul's theology, but have been debating what exactly that means for nearly two thousand years.

John's ground breaking work on the subject, showing how much of the time we are arguing past rather than with each other on this subject, has the potential to change not just what we believe but also how we live. Tea and coffee are provided, join us for an interactive and thought provoking time.

Tickets are free but need to be booked.

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-do-we-mean-by-grace-tickets-1998891495271?aff=oddttdcreator>

Saturday 14 November • 10 AM - 12 PM at
The Durham Centre, Durham, DH1



Rainfall in Brancepeth

	2025	2026	Historic Average	12 month (Durham figures prior to Sept 2025)	
Imperial measurements				2026	2025
January	2.37	3.48	2.10	25.63	
February	1.21	2.83	1.81	27.25	
March	0.75	1.84	1.66	28.34	
April	0.14	0.72	2.07	28.92	
May	0.98	3.04	1.80	30.98	
June	1.22	1.69	2.47	31.45	
July	1.27	0.24	2.47	30.42	
August	0.94	2.16	2.69	31.64	
September	3.98	0.87	2.30	28.53	20.85
October	2.55		2.57		20.83
November	5.76		2.95		23.64
December	3.35		2.47		24.52
TOTAL for year.	24.52	16.87	27.35		

The table shows the rainfall figures (in inches) for Brancepeth since September 2025. The figures for earlier in 2025 are the official rainfall numbers for Durham. I have included the historic average monthly numbers which are also for Durham. It suggests that the seasons have changed into two seasons a wet one and a dry one whereas the average shows a more even spread. May and September stand out as anomalies – the former being very wet and the latter very dry. The 12 monthly total remains similar to Durham's average.

Two items of interest from Timothy Elliot



Wednesday Coffee Morning 10:30-11:30am Village Hall

4 th November	Margot & Val	9 th December	Margot & Val
11 th November	Vivienne & Janiece	16 th December	Rosemary & James
18 th November	Rosemary & James	23 rd December	Martyn & Christine
25 th November	Martyn & Christine	30 th December	NO COFFEE MORNING
2 nd December	Vivienne & Janiece	6 th January	Margot & Val

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

Book Club

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on 8th January, at the home of Audrey and Dick Dumbledon, 19 St Monica Grove, Crossgate Moor. We will be reading, 'The Correspondent', by Virginia Evans.

Our February book will be, 'The Dentist,' by Tim Sullivan and in March, 'London's Falling,' by Patrick Radden Keefe. Venues yet to be confirmed.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

It will be alright on the night

12th DECEMBER, 6. 30pm VILLAGE HALL

Please contact me SOON if you have a poem, a song, a dance or some drama you would like to perform

Martin Peacock

missmhpea@gmail.coor mobile 0705 03242074

A floral representation of the Great Longbenton Leek created by Christine Jones!



Spotted by a sharp eyed visitor to the Ushaw College flower festival.

THE GREAT LONGBENTON LEEK

Up in Longbenton lives a chap, and Charlie is name.
His aim in life was grow-in' grit big leeks to bring him fame.
He'd heard that Chinese elephant dung made leeks grow big and strong,
And so he bought a sackful while on holiday in Hong Kong.
A bit far fetched, I hear you say, manure far to seek,
But now he knew that he could grow the Great Longbenton Leek

Aboard the plane from Hong Kong, he enjoyed the journey back.
He put his Chinese elephant dung up on the luggage rack
The pilot felt quite faint, and several passengers were unwell
But Charlie was all right, because he had no sense of smell
When he got home his happiness had reached an all time peak;
He planted what the world would call the Great Long-benton Leek

He fed his leek this potent stuff: the Vicar said a prayer.
And in a single night it shot up six feet in the air.
Yes, in a world of ordinary leeks it stood apart;
The New Tate Gallery said they'd buy it as a work of Art.
The Chinese elephant dung had worked. 'Twas taller every week;
It grew reet past the chimney pots, the Great Long-benton Leek.

The Russians photographed it from an orbiting satellite
They thowt it wes a nuclear missile on it's launching site.
The Queen came up to see it. She was quite taken aback.
She sez, I wad grow leeks mesel, but I don't have the knack,
But I can tell ye, Charlie, this 'ere vegetable's unique!
He knew he'd get a knighthood for his Great Long-benton Leek.

It stood there like some awe inspirin' mystic fairy tower,
Then one o' those low flyin' aircraft knocked the bugger ower.
Poor Charlie tried the kiss of life, it wasn't any use,
For bits of leek were scattered from Wallsend to Seaton Sluice.
There's one thing now about which Charlie doesn't want to speak
He never got a knighthood for his Great Long-benton Leek

Dates for the Diary:-

Nov Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov Tuesdays - Village Community Choir, 7.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
Nov Wednesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hall
Nov Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Nov Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Nov Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
Nov Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Nov Sunday - Youth Club, 1st, 15th & 29th 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

Oct	30th	Fri	Men's Social, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Oct	31st	Sat	Light Parade, 5.00pm -6.pm, starts at Village Hall
Nov	2nd	Mon	All Souls Service, 7.00pm, Church
Nov	7th	Sun	Choral Evensong, 4.00pm, Church
Nov	15th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm, Church
Nov	16th	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov	20th	Fri	Archive & History Group, Talk, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Nov	27th	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Nov	27th-29th		Craft Fair, Castle. 10.00-5.00pm, Fri& Sat, 12.00-5.00 Sun
Nov	28th	Sat	Wreath Making, 1.30-4.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	12th	Sat	Christmas Show, 6.30pm, Village Hall
Dec	13th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm, Church
Jan '27	8th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 19 St Monica Grove
Jan '27	22nd	Fri	Archive & History Group, Social Evening, V.H.
Jan '27	23rd	Sat	Garden Club Dinner, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Jun '27	26th	Sat	Brancepeth Village Open Gardens Event

Photos

Front cover – ©- Diane Coles; Remembrance Day pedestal in church (2025)
Inside front cover – ©- Josie Armstrong; Garden Club advert for Wreath Making
Inside back cover – ©- Josie Armstrong; Garden Club Dinner Advert
Back cover – © - BCA Socials Advert for Quiz Night

Newsletter entries no later than November 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>	Karen Watts	<i>Annual Membership</i>
Ian Stoker	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Brancepeth Socials	<i>Social events</i>
Val Gibbons	<i>Secretary,</i>	Peter Burdess	<i>Hall Bookings</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Treasurer & Website</i>	Jean Merrington	
	<i>Church Representative</i>		

www.brancepethcommunityassociation.co.uk

Tel: 0191 3783952

Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Martyn Jones, 32 Goodwell Lea (0191 3789297)
Vice Chairman	Ian Stoker, ian.stoker57.is@googlemail.com
Secretary	Val Gibbons, valmgibbons@gmail.com (0191 3784200)
Treasurer & Website	Joanne Dalton, 1 rectory Cottages, (07876 624626)
Brancepeth Socials	brancepethsocials@gmail.com
Annual Membership	Karen Watts, k.watts8@talktalk.net
Hall Bookings	Peter Burdess –07748 158703 or peterburdess@btinternet.com
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	Lynne Hastie (07709 239677)
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 (07709 239677)
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
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-council.org.uk



BRANCEPETH
GARDEN CLUB

SAVE THE DATE



GRAND
Dinner



HELD AT
THE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 23RD
JANUARY 2027



Further details to follow

**CHRISTMAS
QUIZ**

**Friday
27 November
7:15**

Teams 2 - 8

(Come on your own and join a team!)
Children welcome if they can entertain themselves

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

£10 BCA Members £12 Non Members
Children £5 pizza & ice cream

Tickets from Karen Stoddart
Telephone 07595285587

**All Proceeds to Brancepeth Community
Association**

Quiz Night Village Hall