

***ST. BRANDON'S CHURCH
BRANCEPETH***



NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2017

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

Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd. Rick Simpson (3780503)
Curate	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670)
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (3735674)
Church Wardens:	Steve Hodgson (3780289) Hester Higton (5974675)
Secretary	Mike Higton (5974675)
Treasurer	Geoff Knott (01833 627094)
Deanery Synod	Evelyn Aitken (3789908) David Eltringham (01388 746058) John Jackson (3782392)

Other members:-

Rev'd Fiona Eltringham- co-opted (01388 746058)	James Morgan (4476520)
Carolyn Knott (01833 627094)	Isabel Rae (9039145)
Jean Merrington (3780952)	John Roberts ((01388 748287)
Jeanette Metcalfe (3781646)	Robert Scott-Biggs (3735907)

Pastoral Assistant	Deborah Hodge (01388 745455)
Prayer Team	Deborah Hodge 01388 745455, Alison Hobbs 378 9670, Alison Moore 373 5674, Myrleen Stewart 378 0862.
Sunday School & Messy Church	Gillian Smellie (3739420) & Liz Thomas (3784465)
Organist	Richard Hird
Music	Jean Merrington, Thornberry Garth (3780952)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (3847431): Deborah Hodge (01388 745455) Jean Hodgson (3780289): Carolyn Knott (01833 627094)
Safeguarding Officer	Ronnie Moles (01388 768908)
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (3780858)
New Churchyard	Bill Currie, 12 Goodwell Lea (3783414)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674) Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Rev'd Fiona Eltringham, Deborah Hodge, Jean Hodgson, Jean Merrington, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan, Rev'd Rick Simpson
SMD Team:	Rick Simpson; Alison Hobbs; Alison Moore; Martin Peacock
Fabric:	Jayne & Peter Cook; Stephen Hodgson; John Jackson; Jean Merrington; John Morgan; James Morgan; Edward Staines
Parish Office	Tel: 0191 3782866: Website www.stbrandon.org.uk

May Newsletter entries - no later than 20th April
Please send to Sue Morgan - sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Easter is coming soon, attended by bunnies, chicks and daffodils in every shop. These icons are sentimental, saccharine sweet, but as spring-based symbols they do vaguely wave in the direction of Easter's meaning, pointing towards new life, new beginnings – and that really is something to do with Easter.

The most recent meeting of the Brancepeth Book Club discussed John O'Farrell's novel, *The Man Who Forgot His Wife*. It's a light comedy, but deals with some serious stuff under the surface. The premise is that the narrator, Vaughan, has forgotten not only his wife, but *everything* about his own life, including who he is. This may sound far-fetched, but such "psychogenic fugues" do occur: people may remember many facts, and skills – how to read, write, even (in one real case) play piano to a professional level – but lose all memory of who they are. Memories then often begin to return, intact.

Vaughan forgets his life – name, job, past, family. As he is reintroduced to that life by people who know him, he discovers that he is married, but only just: his divorce is well under way. It turns out that long before he forgot wife Maddy altogether, he'd been forgetting her piece-by-important-piece: forgetting what made her laugh, why he loved her, what she hoped for, when she had a medical appointment about recent, important tests ... So it seems Vaughan re-emerges onto the stage of his own life just in time to see the curtains closing on his marriage. At his divorce hearing, however, he falls in love with the woman he fell in love with many years before, but who now wants to forget him. Will he get a second chance? At the same time, he is "introduced" to his own young children, and is immediately besotted, enchanted, astonished that he has shared responsibility for bringing such wonderful human beings into existence.

What I really liked in this is how Vaughan comes to learn of his own past behaviour with a sense of surprise, even shock, as if watching a recording of his actions (once, literally), and saying to himself: “Was that really *me*? Did I behave like *that*? But that’s terrible!” He gets a new perspective, and a chance to choose to be different now. Will that work? Or is it too late?

Well, no spoilers: you’ll have to read the book. But the same question is raised by Easter: do we get a second chance, even if we have made a mess of our life? Can people get out from underneath the sense of guilt they feel about that?

Easter is the most curious of stories. It concerns a man who was able to inspire hope, faith and love. He refused to hate, even when despised and abused. He insisted on talking about forgiveness, while he was tortured to death. But the Easter part of the story is the claim that, beyond this brutal, unjust death, he then rose to new life. And the conclusion of those who knew and followed him was that this means a new beginning within our lives really is possible. His death and resurrection can somehow apply to us, get inside us: we can “die” to our faults and failures and the guilt that clings them to them; we can rise, and perhaps be reintroduced to our own lives, with the chance to have another go, renewed. Some Christians feel this sense of renewal profoundly, existentially.

Chicks and bunnies often don’t convey that kind of newness quite so powerfully, but this is the kind of newness of life Easter is all about. All of which makes wishing you a “happy” Easter feel weak; that adjective just isn’t enough. So I wish you ... some sense of that newness, that we-get-to-have-another-go-ness, that renewal which is the reason behind the season. If “happy” can include *that*, then Happy Easter, and my very best wishes, as ever,
Rick.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 9th – 10.15 am

Parish Eucharist

Start at the Village crossroads for the procession
(or in church, for those who do not want to process)

Monday April 10th – 7.30 pm Eucharist

Tuesday April 11th – 7.30 pm Eucharist

Wednesday April 12th – 7.30 pm Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 13th – 7.30 pm

Eucharist with Foot-washing

Good Friday, April 14th – 12.00–1.30 pm

Meditative Service

Good Friday, April 14th – 2.00 pm

Solemn Liturgy / Communion

Easter Sunday, April 16th – 5.30 am

Vigil (followed by breakfast in the Castle)

Easter Sunday, April 16th – 10.15 am

All-age Eucharist

St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth

www.stbrandon.org.uk

Readings and Services in April 2017

2nd April Lent 5 Parish Eucharist with Baptism (George Pickering) - 10.15

Readings: First: Evelyn Aitken Romans 8. 6-11
Second: none
Gospel: John 11. 1-45
Deborah Hodge Intercessions

9th April, Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist - 10.15

Readings: First: Peter Cook Isaiah 50. 4-9a
Second: Robert Scott Biggs Philippians 2. 5-11
Gospel: Matthew 27. 11-54
Geoff Moore Intercessions

HOLY WEEK:

Monday April 10th - 7.30 pm Eucharist

Tuesday April 11th - 7.30 pm Eucharist

Wednesday April 12th - 7.30 pm Eucharist

Maundy Thursday April 13th - 7.30 pm Eucharist , with Foot-washing

Readings: First: Hester Higton Exodus 12. 1-4, 11-14
Second: James Morgan 1 Corinthians 11. 23-26
Gospel: John 13. 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday April 14th - 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm Reflective Service

Come into the peaceful atmosphere at church at any time from 12 noon. Pray using your senses – sit quietly and listen to

the music, pause at the prayer places around the church, before the Eucharist at 2pm.

- 2.00 pm Solemn Liturgy / Eucharist

Readings: First: Mike Higton Isaiah 52. 13 – 53.12
Gospel: John 18. 1 – 19 end

Easter Sunday April 16th**5.30 a.m. Easter Vigil Service**

Readings: as set in service booklet – Martin organising

Gospel: Matthew 28. 1-10

Easter Day All Age Parish Eucharist 10.15

Readings: First: Geoff Knott Acts 10. 34-43

Gospel: John 20.1-18

Martin Peacock Intercessions

April 23rd – Easter 2**Parish Eucharist 10.15**

Readings: First: John Roberts Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

Gospel: John 20. 19-31

Philip Lockley Intercessions

April 30th – Easter 3**Parish Eucharist 10.15**

Readings: First: Vivien Davies Acts 2. 14a, 36-41

Second: Tom Hobbs 1 Peter 1: 17-23

Gospel: Luke 24. 13-35

Hester Higton Intercessions

*This service will be followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.***May 7th – Easter 4****Parish Eucharist 10.15**

Readings: First: Martin Peacock Acts 2, 42-end

Second: Carolyn Knott 1 Peter 2. 19-end

Gospel: John 10. 1-10

Sidespersons

Servers

Apr 2 nd	Sally & Robert Scott Biggs	Tom Hobbs & Tom Higton
Apr 9 th	(<i>Palm Sunday</i>)	
	Ann & John Roberts	Jonny & Bridget
Apr 13 th	(<i>Maundy Thursday</i>)	
	Sue Morgan	Jonny
Apr 16 th	(<i>Easter Dawn</i>)	Martin
Apr 16 th	(<i>Easter Day 10.15</i>)	
	Myrleen Stewart & Steve Hodgson	Bridget & Tom Higton
Apr 23 rd	Geoff Knott & Bonny Bainbridge	Tom Hobbs
Apr 30 th	Bianca Allen & Hester Higton	Tom Higton
May 7 th	Jayne & Peter Cook	Bridget

Flowers

Coffee

Apr 2 nd	Lent	Alison Moore
Apr 9 th	Palm Sunday	Evelyn Aitken
Apr 16 th	Easter Sunday	Norma Taylor
Apr 23 rd	Lynn Hastie	Sue Morgan
Apr 30 th	Vivien Davies	Iris Waggott
May 7 th	Hilary Moss	Jeanette Metcalfe

Church Cleaning

April: *Sue Morgan*, Bonny Bainbridge, Fiona Eltringham,
Deborah Hodge & Alison Moore.

May: *Evelyn Aitken*, Carolyn Knott, Jean Merrington,
Myrleen Stewart, Iris & Bob Waggott.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
St. Brandon's Church
Sunday 30th April (about) 11.30 a.m.

The church's Annual Meeting takes place on Sunday 14th April, after the Parish Eucharist (at around 11.30 a.m.). Our hope in scheduling the meeting for this time is that many of those who have come for the service are then able to stay on for the Annual Meeting: please do.

We used to hold the meeting on a weekday evening, and attendance levels ... well, left room for improvement! The things we do in the meeting are, actually, fairly important for the life and health of our church. It's the time when we elect the Church Wardens, PCC and Deanery Synod reps, we ask you to check that the accounts suggest we are running things properly, and we review what the church has been doing.

Holding the meeting after the service means no extra journey out, just staying a little longer at church than we might do anyway. There's also glass of wine available to wash the reports down with! If you see yourself as a member of St Brandon's, pleased come if you can.

If you wish to be able to vote in the meeting, you do need to be on the church's Electoral Roll (if you want to be elected to PCC, you also need to be on the Roll). This is not the same as the civil electoral roll, and if you have never signed a form to join the Roll, you won't be on it. Anyone who lives within the parish and/or attends the church on a regular basis is able to join the Roll – contact Carol Beeby to ask how to do this (carol21beeby@btinternet.com).

*Rick Simpson,
Priest-in-Charge*

19th March – Confirmation and Licensing

On Sunday 19th March we were very pleased to welcome the Bishop of Jarrow, Mark, and his wife Elizabeth to St. Brandon's. Bishop Mark joined us to enable two important events to take place: a confirmation on home soil for the first time since the church was reopened, and the licensing of Alison as our Associate Minister.

Four candidates were confirmed: Charlotte Bowden, Liam Dietz, Bridget Higton and Colleen Turnbull. Bishop Mark spoke to them, and all of us, about how deeply we are loved by God. He was speaking from John chapter 4 – the story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman by a well. John tells us that this woman was collecting water at noon, which no one in their right mind would do in that temperature – people go at dawn or dusk – unless they wanted to avoid other people. The story suggests that she was trying to do just that, as she was probably strongly disapproved of by her neighbours. But Jesus talked with her, and asked her for some water, and the encounter went on to change her life. Bishop Mark told us that he meets many people who feel worthless; however, in God's eyes we are of infinite value, precious, loved. His prayer was that if the confirmation candidates remembered nothing else from the day, they would remember, simply, that God loves them.

The service also included the Licensing of Alison as Associate Minister. All Church of England clergy go through two stages of "Initial Ministerial Education" – "IME 1": three years of academic studies and placements, before being ordained; and "IME 2": on the job, ongoing training, for three to four years after ordination, during which their official title is "Assistant Curate". Alison completed IME 2 successfully just over a year ago, and this service gave us a chance for her to be formally licensed as Associate Minister to our parish. Congratulations to her on completing that training – it is a *long* road! – and our ongoing thanks to her for all she gives in her ministry.

*Rick Simpson,
Priest-in-Charge*

Bishop Mark with Rev. Alison Hobbs and the four confirmed candidates



VESTRY REPORT: baptism, confirmations and licensing.

26th February 2017, the baptism of Suzannah Joyce Hazell, daughter of Jonathan Mark and Catherine Anne Hazell.

19th March 2017, the confirmation of Charlotte Rebecca Bowden, Liam Thomas Dietz, Bridget Clare Higton and Colleen Turnbull by Bishop Mark (Bishop of Jarrow).

19th March 2017, the licensing of Rev Alison Hobbs as Associate Minister by Bishop Mark (Bishop of Jarrow)

Brancepeth Youth Club

April - July 2017

Sunday club nights are from 6.00 – 8.00pm.

All young people in the Village (and beyond, and their friends) are warmly welcome. The age range is from 11 to 17 years inclusive.

Sunday	30 April	Normal club night
Sunday	14 May	Normal club night
Sunday	28 May	Normal club night
Sunday	11 June	Normal club night
Sunday	25 June	Normal club night
Sunday	9 July	BBQ*

** The BBQ will take place at The Rectory. We'll work out details nearer the time.*

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674

Martin Peacock 378 4268

Rick Simpson, Rachel Lunney, Sam Wilkes, Jonny Dobson, Tom and Alison Hobbs will also be helping to lead.

***Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate prayer,
a visit, or perhaps to receive communion at home
Please tell Deborah Hodge, Authorised Pastoral Assistant, and she
will get in touch. 01388 745455***

“Bishops’ Mission to Durham:

During the last weekend of February some 25 Church of England Bishops visited the Diocese of Durham to join parish churches in a huge range of events. Almost every parish held an event of some kind, ranging from engagement with local youth, to working with Street Pastors in Durham on Saturday night, running a comedy night with two clergy doing stand-up routines ... At St Brandon’s, the our local jazz hero, Steve Taylor, agreed to his band and singers doing a concert in church. Thanks to the hard work of too many people to mention, the church was transformed into a beautiful cafe-style space, with listeners around small tables, enjoying a glass of wine with the show.

Bishop Chris Edmondson (until recently, Bishop of Bolton, recently retired), who is a skilful pianist himself, joined us for the evening. In the interval he spoke about rhythm and improvisation – two features of jazz which are important to life itself. He suggested that in the craziness of modern life it’s all too easy to lose our rhythm, and that his faith in Christ helps him to both live with a more healthy pattern, and to “improvise” through whatever life brings his way.

Alongside the band and singers (of course!), our beautiful building was also something of a star – it really lends itself so well to this format. Given that, and the fact that church regulars and their invited guests had a really good time, and that we sold out over a week ahead, perhaps we should do this, and/or something similar again? Thanks again to everyone who helped make this happen.”



The Steve Taylor Jazz Band and Take 5 singers



Church in 'Cafe Style' for the Jazz Night with Bishop Chris Edmondson



April 9th (Palm Sunday)

3-5pm

IN CHURCH.

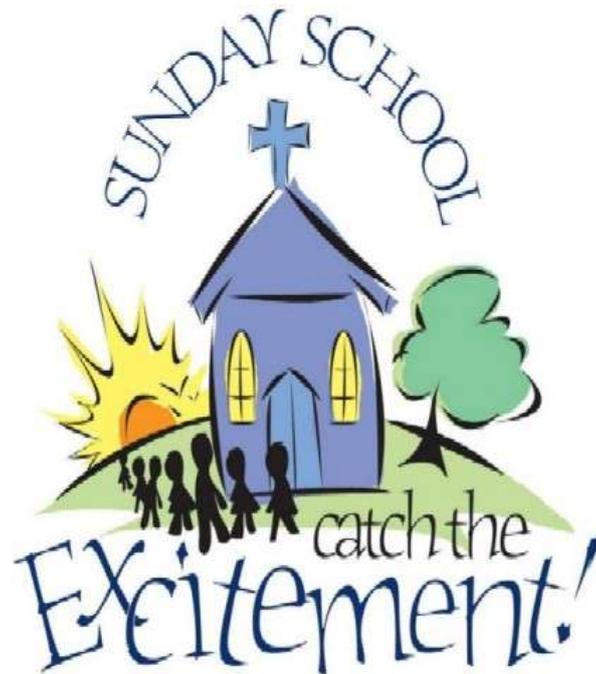
The Easter Story

All ages welcome

**We love to see new faces & guarantee you a warm and friendly
welcome & tons of fun!**

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult

<http://www.messychurch.org.uk/church/st-brandons-messy-church>



Sunday mornings

10.15am

St. Brandon's Church

During Eucharist Service

School Term time in April (check dates with leaders)

Suitable for school age children

Bible stories, crafts, games

Leaders fully DBS checked.

Opportunity for children to worship informally with or without their grown ups, then re-join for the end of the Eucharist service.

Wriggly church area in Neville Chapel available for pre-schoolers to enjoy with their grown-ups.

Speaker relay to overhear Eucharist Service.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY APRIL 2017

You are invited to use this diary to share in the prayers offered daily in church

- 1 Whitworth Lane and Black House
- 2 LENT 5 Give thanks for new insights gained in Lent**
- 3 Oakenshaw Road
- 4 Give thanks for Youth Club, Sunday School and Messy Church and for all our youth leaders
- 5 Wooley Grange, Springwell Farm, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den
- 6 Goodwell Lea
- 7 Give thanks for the spring, with its promise of warmth and new life
- 8 Quarry Hill and cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhites Farm and Goodwell Field
- 9 PALM SUNDAY Pray for all Christian processions today (including our own)**
- 10 **Monday of Holy Week** pray for churches around the world meeting in secret or in fear this week
- 11 **Tuesday of Holy Week** pray for all children who will be experiencing the Easter Journey activity
- 12 **Wednesday of Holy Week** pray for a deeper understanding of all that Our Saviour has done for us
- 13 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** pray for all who feel they have been betrayed or fear they have been betrayers
- 14 **GOOD FRIDAY** pray for all political prisoners unjustly imprisoned or executed. For a world where this does not happen
- 15 Pray for all who mourn
- 16 EASTER DAY HE IS RISEN HE IS RISEN HALLELUIAH! CHRIST HAS OVERCOME**
- 17 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
- 18 Durham Road and the Forge
- 19 Pray for Bridge Road and Tanglewood
- 20 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres and Thornberry Garth
- 21 Village North, Station House and Cottages
- 22 The Village South
- 23 EASTER 2 On St George's day give thanks for all that is good about England**

- 24 The Village Hall and Golf Club
- 25 St Mark give thanks for the evangelist and pray for those called Mark
- 26 Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy, Scampton Lodge, Scampton Farm
- 27 Peppermires, Culmaran Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm, Holywell and East Parks
- 28 Stockley Grove
- 29 The Castle and Lodge
- 30 Trinity 4 Pray for all clergy especially those shortly to be ordained as they face the challenges and joys of ministry**

For May entries contact Myrleen Stewart 0191 378 08

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 at

5 Russell Close

Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 11:00am

Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 11:00am

Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 11:00am





30th Year Anniversary
Progressive Supper
Saturday, 20th May

This year is the 30th anniversary year for Brancepeth Village's Progressive Supper evening – so, we would like to make it extra special this year to celebrate such a long running, traditional and fun event!

If you are new to the village or have lived here for a long time, and not attended many village activities before, this is a great evening in which to participate. You meet for different dinner courses with different groups of people throughout the evening and agree to host one of the courses (you get to know the week before which 'course' you're hosting, and for how many guests) – it really is a lot of fun!

The evening begins at the village hall for drinks and canapes where you will be given your first envelope informing you of where to go for your first course then you 'progress' to different houses for main course and pudding, meeting with different guests along the way, (individually addressed envelopes are given to you at each course telling you where to go for your next course) and finally, everyone meets up again at either the village hall or a house for cheese, port and coffee. You don't have to be cordon bleu cooks to participate (M&S, et al., do great food!)

It would be lovely to see both old and new faces. If you live on your own, and/or if you feel you can't 'host' a course this year we can join you with others so that everyone feels welcome. If you're a 'newbie' to this we try and arrange for you to host either a 'starter' or a 'pudding' course – or join with others who like cooking - so it's not too scary at all!

*Please complete the attached form and return it ASAP – or email the information to jdalton2103@gmail.com - **but no later than Thursday 4th May**. It takes us approximately one week to complete the planning and logistics for the evening and we will inform you of which 'course' you're catering no later than Saturday 13th May 2017*

Please complete this form ASAP or no later than Thursday 4th May (or email the information to: jdalton2013@gmail.com)

Name:
.....

Address:.....
.....
.....
.....

Tel No:
.....

Email
address:.....

I/We could drive guests to their starter venue
.....

I/We could cater for 6 people – including
ourselves.....

I/We could cater for 8 people – including ourselves
.....

I/We would like to participate but cannot
host.....

Do you have any dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian or a food
allergy?
.....
.....

**Please return your form, together with cash or a cheque for
£5 each, payable to 'Brancepeth Community Association' to:**

Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge or **Jo Dalton**, 1 Rectory Cottage (or email
jdalton2103@gmail.com – you can pay by cash or cheque at a later
date)

Wednesday Coffee Morning Village Hall 10.30 - 11.45

All are very welcome – plus family & friends, any age!

April	5 th	Christine Jones & Rob Waggott
April	12 th	Linda Larnach & Sheena Murray
April	19 th	Joan Taylor & Pat Allatt
April	26 th	Evelyn Aitken & Bill Curry
May	3 rd	Janiece Spence & Joan Taylor
May	10 th	Deborah & Bob Chapman
May	17 th	Jean & Jim Merrington
May	24 th	Stuart Allen & Vivienne Lowe
May	31 st	Christine Jones & Rob Waggott
June	7 th	Linda Larnach & Sheena Murray

If your turn is unsuitable please swap with someone else. Josie Armstrong, or Pat Allatt may be able to help. Please let your partner know: -

Pat Allatt 3780454

Stewart Allen 3780871

Evelyn Aitken 3789908

Josie Armstrong 01388 748902

Deborah Chapman 3781409

Bill Currie 3783414

Christine Jones 3789297

Linda Larnach 375 7554.

Rob Waggott 3783592

Vivienne Lowe 3780974

Jean Merrington 3780952

Sheena Murray 378 1097

Janiece Spence 4356357

Joan Taylor 3783630

KNIT AND NATTER

The group meets on alternate Tuesdays 2 – 4pm in the village hall committee room. Anyone who knits, sews or just wants to chat is welcome. The dates for April are 4th and 18th. The group would like to thank Moya Balshen for her very generous contribution of wool and other knitting equipment. This will all help greatly with producing items for the Christmas shoebox appeal.

BCA Cinema Club



“DAD’S ARMY”

Friday, April 7th at 7.30pm

PLUS

Easter Holiday Family Matinee

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Tuesday, 18th April at 2pm

Both in the village hall. Bring a cushion!

The Cinema Club is open to all BCA members on payment of a small annual fee of £3 per adult/£1 per child (5-16).

Fees can be paid with BCA and/or Garden Club subscription or at any film showing with proof of BCA membership.

The Cinema Club, and all other activities within the Community Association, relies on volunteers. If you can help and would like to volunteer please contact one of the BCA members listed in the newsletter. Thank you.

GARDEN CLUB

Spring Show Wed. 19 April Village Hall. Schedules now available from Monitors and there are some next to the serving hatch in the village hall. You will also be able to print your own from the BCA web site :- Village Groups – Garden Club page of the website

www.brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/ - a new class mainly for children – painted / decorated egg has been added. Adults also welcome to enter – but please indicate this on the entry form. A new trophy has been added for the best vase of daffodils.

The **AGM** will be at 7.30 - following the show and prize-giving. Refreshments and nibbles available after the AGM

Future events.

Durham Organic Gardeners' Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 in Bowburn Community Centre. All welcome. The next event that may be of interest to you:- a speaker from the National Vegetable Society :- Wed. 12th April 'An A-Z of Gardening' - Adrian Read

Friday 19 May Plant exchange and sale, Brancepeth Village Hall, 7.30. Please let a Monitor know if there are any specific plants you are looking for. Net proceeds will go to St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Friday 9 June 2017. Walkabout – Foxes Row .

Saturday 9 September . Annual Show .

Friday 29 September, visit to Halls of Heddon.

BRANCEPETH CASTLE GOLF CLUB

We would like to invite you to the following event at the Golf Club.

April 8th Quiz night

For more information on this event please contact the Golf Club or Linda Larnach on 07711087506

'100 Club'

February

£20 – No.58.....F.Bainbridge

£10 – N0.28.....G. Smellie

£5 - N0.4.....J. Cook

March

No.97.....S. Bonsor

No.30.....M. Henderson

No.82.....R. Jackson

ST BRANDON'S CHURCH FLOWER GUILD



PALM SUNDAY

Would Guild members please meet in church on Friday 7th April at 9.30am to help prepare the palm arches.

EASTER PREPARATIONS

Please would members, and anyone else who would like to help, come to the church at 4.00pm on Good Friday after the congregation has departed to help with the Easter arrangements. Please bring suitable foliage.

DONATIONS towards the cost of the Easter flowers would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes can be delivered to any of the following:

Jessie Brown: Kirkstone, The Forge, Christine Jones: 32 Goodwell Lea,
Ruth Pickles: 19 The Village, Lynne Hastie: 26 Goodwell Lea,
Hillary Moss: 1 Stockley Grove.

Otherwise donations can be handed to Norma Taylor in church.
Thank you for your support.

At the recent Guild AGM Jessie Brown was re-appointed as Chairman, Christine Jones as Treasurer and Lynne Hastie as Secretary. Guild members are reminded that the annual subscription of £5 is due before the end of March.

Book Club

Brancepeth Book Club will next meet on Friday 21 April, 7.30 p.m. at 29 Goodwell Lea, Sheena Murray's home. The book for discussion is The Coffin Road by Peter May.

All welcome. Hope to see you there. Val Gibbons



??? Easter Quiz Night ???

Friday 28th April 2017

7.15pm, Village Hall

Top Prize! Come along and pit your wits?!

Teams of 2-10

Hot roast sandwich (& vegetarian option) & salad supper included in ticket price of £7 BCA members and £8 non-members – proceeds to BCA

Bring own drinks

Raffle

Tickets available from: Peter Aitken: 0191 378 9908/George Gibbons: 0191 378 4200 /Jo Dalton: jdalton2103@gmail.com



Table Top Sale

Saturday 6th May, 11am – 2pm

Village Hall

Tea Shop

To pre-book a table (£10 each) please contact: Peter Aitken: 0191 378 9908/George Gibbons: 0191 378 4200 /Jo Dalton: jdalton2103@gmail.com



Brancepeth in the Past

One hundred and fifty years ago: 3rd April 1867. Cutting from a local newspaper:-

“A man decapitated on the Bishop Auckland Railway – On Tuesday evening a most melancholy accident occurred on the Bishop Auckland branch of the North-Eastern Railway, near Durham, by which a man names Luke Kirkup, lost his life. Deceased held the position of “chargeman” over the platelayers who maintain the line in repair between the Deerness Junction and Brancepeth. On the above afternoon, Kirkup, and those under him, were working near the Low Brandon Colliery, and he having to attend the funeral of a fellow-workman, left his employment earlier than usual. The house of the deceased is only a short distance from the line, and to get thither he took the down line of rails. The wind was blowing strong at the time, and it is imagined that he did not observe the approach of a laden coke train from Willington. The engineman blew his whistle, but deceased appears not to have heard it, and in consequence of the speed at which the train was running, and the line at this point being a sharp incline, the whole of the wagons passed over the unfortunate man, decapitating him, and also severing one of his arms at the shoulder. The accident was witnessed by several of his fellow platelayers, who at once proceeded to the spot, and gathered up the mangled remains. No blame is attached to the engine-driver, the train being stopped at the earliest practicable moment. Deceased was 50 years of age”.

One hundred years ago: 24th April 1917. From the school log book:-

As Messrs Bostock and Wombwell’s Menagerie is at Meadowfield and there is a special exhibition for school children at 3.45 p.m., the afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. today and school will close earlier in order that the children may attend the exhibition.



"ST. BRANDON 1500"

The Group is hoping that people in the village will be interested in helping with this event in September. If you were involved in the World War One events in 2015, and enjoyed the experience, you might be willing to join in again.

Come along to a get together in the Village Hall on

Wednesday 5th April, 7.30 p.m.

to hear an illustrated presentation of what the Archives are hoping to put on, and find out more about how you might be able to help.

BRANCEPETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS AS AT 13.3.2017

Bradley Mr. & Mrs.	Stewart Mrs M.	Ryder Mr. & Mrs.
Lovell Dr. & Mrs.	McEwan Ms. C.	Dewhirst Mr. & Mrs
Green Dr. A.	McLaren Mr. & Mrs.	Johnson Mr. & Mrs.
Surtees Mr. & Mrs.	Dickinson Mr, & Mrs	Prof. & Rev. Hobbs
Young Mr. & Mrs.	Parker Mr. & Mrs.	Peart Mr. & Mrs.
Reed Mr./Straughair Mrs.	Bainbridge Mr & Mrs.	Fell Mr. & Mrs.
Hyland Dr. & Mrs.	Burdess Mr. & Mrs.	Mr. & Mrs. Lovegreen
Gibbon Mr. & Mrs.	Price Mr. & Mrs.	Bottomley Mr. & Mrs.
Stephenson/Kitchings family	Brown Mr. & Mrs.	Lowes Mrs. I.
Mr. & Prof. Allatt	Dr Walton & Dr. Kovarovic	Mr. & Mrs.Saxton
Mr. & Mrs. Dunnill	C.Hunter & A Flockton	Dr. & Mrs. Khan

Choir: Cook Mr. & Mrs. Moore Mr. & Mrs. Minto Mrs. J.
Taylor Mr. & Mrs.

Garden: Moles Mrs. V. Pearson Mr. & Mrs. Donovan Miss E.

If you have paid your sub but your name has not appeared on this list or the last one, I do apologise. Please let me know. Vivienne Lowe Tel: 378 0974.

OPERA NOVA



will be returning to Brancepeth with a semi-staged version of
Bizet's

CARMEN

Saturday 3 June at 7:30 pm

in St. Brandon's Church, Brancepeth

Tickets are available now from Mary Coffield (07936 080535 or email:
mary.coffield@googlemail.com)

Adults £12 (£10 concessions). Students and U16s tickets £1.

Please come along and support us.

PARISH COUNCIL.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

For several years, the issue of most concern in the village has been road safety. As we are all aware, the majority of the villagers live to the North West of the A690, whereas the main facilities are to the South East – village hall, church, golf club, castle, coffee shop. Crossing the road can be hazardous - and despite the reduction in the speed limit from 40 to 30 MPH, some traffic still uses speeds which are a problem for anyone crossing. Durham Constabulary has limited resources to make a concerted regular enforcement effort here, although they do post traffic officers at Brancepeth from time to time. A recent initiative is to offer Community Speed-watch facilities to local people to make their own checks. Funding has been made available by Durham Constabulary to train several local people and to provide the speed survey equipment, high visibility jackets, reporting stationery etc. The training will not be an onerous process, 30-40 minutes would be all that is required. There won't be any written exam, with the majority of the input being about site safety, setting up the equipment and then how to record the activity and get the results to the Police.

Our understanding is that Brancepeth is one of the first villages to be offered this opportunity – no doubt due to the problem having been raised so often. The commitment from us would be to agree to have six to 8 people who would be prepared to undertake the training then set up and operate Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch events a couple of times a month.

For more information, please contact Peter Aitken on 0191 3789908.

County and Parish Elections – 4 May 2017

Nominations are invited for election of Parish Councillors of Brancepeth Parish Council. Nominations to be submitted to the Returning Officer, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, by 4pm on 15 April. Please note that a nomination is not valid unless the candidate's consent to nomination has been given on or within one month of the last day for delivery of the nomination papers. The Returning Officer's formal notice about elections will be posted on the Parish Council notice board outside the village hall.

Dates for the Diary:-

April	3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th	Monday	Snooker Club	
April	3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th	Monday	Yoga	
April	4 th 18 th	Tuesday	Knit & Natter	
April	tba	Check dates with Jean	Tuesday	Choir
April	5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th	Wed.	Coffee Morning	
April	12 th 19 th 26 th	Wed	Art Class	
April	6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	Thursday	Badminton	
April	30 th	Sunday	Youth Club	

Please confirm dates with leaders

April	7 th	Friday	Cinema Club (Dad's Army) – Village Hall
April	18 th	Tues	Cinema Club (Lion, Witch..) – Village Hall
April	19 th	Wed	Garden Club Spring Show & AGM –Village Hall
April	21 st	Friday	Book Club – 7.30pm – 29 Goodwell Lea
April	28 th	Friday	Quiz night – Village Hall
April	30 th	Sunday	APCM –11.30am, Church
May	4 th	Thurs	County & Parish Elections
May	6 th	Sat	Table Top Sale – Village Hall
May	19 th	Friday	Garden Club, plant exchange & sale – Village Hall
May	20 th	Sat	Progressive Supper 30 th Anniversary
June	3 rd	Sat	Opera Nova – Carmen, 7.30pm Church
June	9 th	Friday	Garden Walkabout
Sept	9 th	Sat	Annual Show – Village Hall

Village Hall: please contact Geraldine Jennings –

gerryjennings5@googlemail.com or tel. 3781583

Front cover © Geoff Knott Confirmation Service & Licensing of Rev Alison Hobbs by Bishop Mark 19/03 / 2017

Back cover © Elizabeth Metcalfe-Durham University Society of Change Ringers (DUSCR) Wed practice in St Brandon's bell tower 2017
Other photos © Geoff Knott & Peter Aitken

May Newsletter entries no later than April 20th

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

George Gibbons	<i>Chairman</i>	Phil Davison	<i>Building coordinator</i>
John Morgan	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Alison Hobbs	<i>Church</i>
Peter Aitken	<i>Secretary</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Vivienne Lowe	<i>Subscription</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Social Events</i>	Rosemary Monument	<i>Choir</i>
James Dalton	<i>IT</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Wednesday Coffee</i>

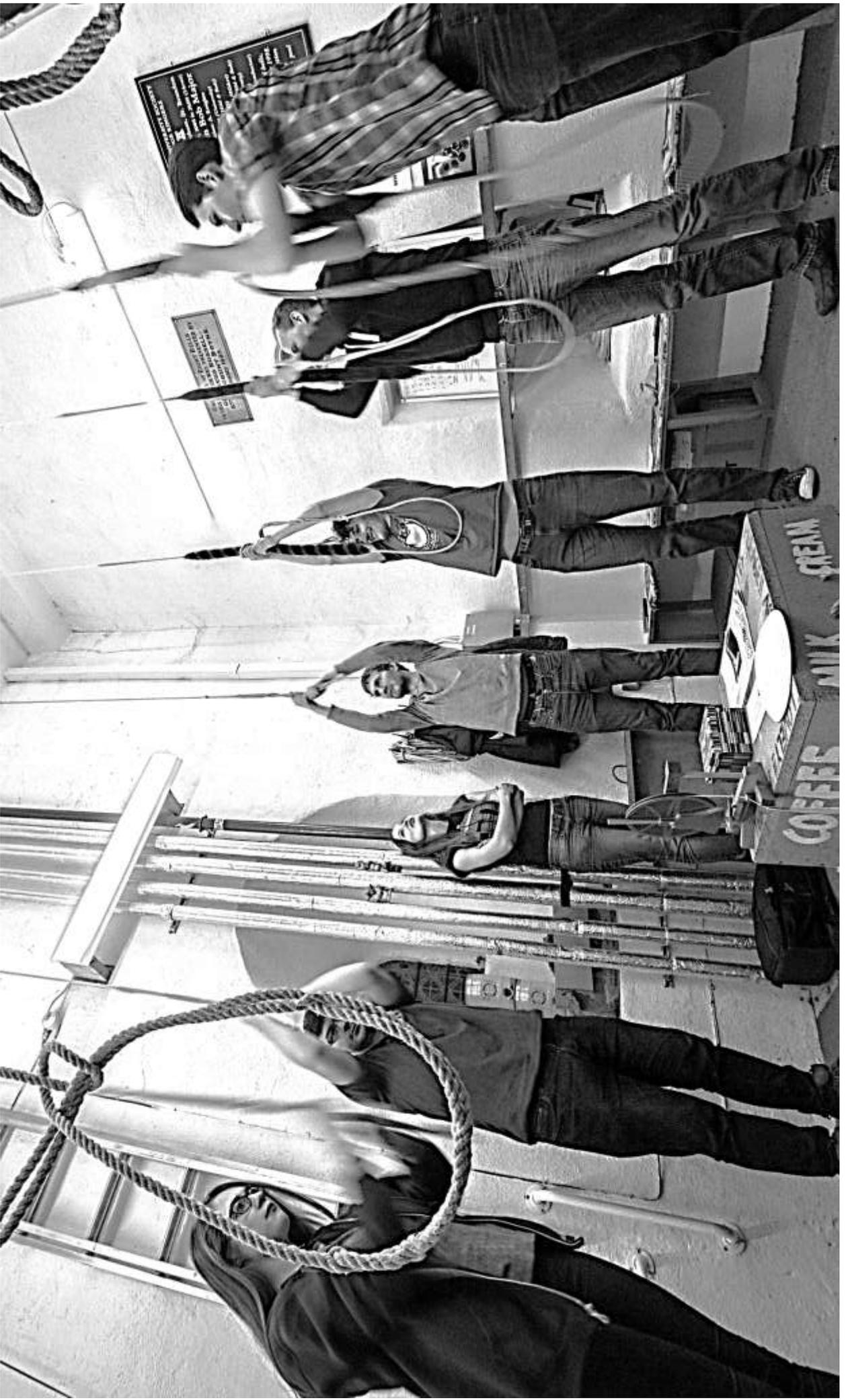
Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	George Gibbons, 3 The Forge (3784200)
Secretary	Peter Aitken, The Copse, Foxes Row (3789908)
Treasurer	Margot Harrison, Downsgarth (3784813)
Membership	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Hall Bookings	Geraldine Jennings, 5 Goodwell Lea (3781583)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Badminton	Peter Hodge, (01388 745455)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Club	John Morgan, (3781172) baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Rick Simpson, ricksimpson300@btinternet.com Val Gibbons (3784200)
Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Club	Jessie Brown (3782748)
Garden Club	Barry Dickinson (3782398)
Snooker Bookings	Geraldine Jennings (3781583)
Wednesday Coffee	Joan Taylor (3783630)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674)

Parish Council

Chairman	Michael Lowe (3780974) Jessie Brown (3782748) Peter Aitken (3789908) Christine Jones (3789297) Philip Pickles (07785998431) David Thomas (3784465)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346 Lynne Rowland 07800516127
County Councillors:	olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org



HOW TO USE THE
DRILL
1. Turn on the power switch.
2. Hold the handle firmly.
3. Turn the handle clockwise.
4. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
5. Turn the handle clockwise.
6. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
7. Turn the handle clockwise.
8. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
9. Turn the handle clockwise.
10. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.

HOW TO USE THE
SAW
1. Turn on the power switch.
2. Hold the handle firmly.
3. Turn the handle clockwise.
4. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
5. Turn the handle clockwise.
6. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
7. Turn the handle clockwise.
8. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.
9. Turn the handle clockwise.
10. Turn the handle counter-clockwise.

COFFEE MILK CREAM