

St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth
Newsletter: September 2020



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

Scarecrow Competition

1st



2nd



3rd



Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.uk or anna.brooker@durham.ac.uk
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Curate	Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop (01388 730855) rev.sabine@durham.anglican.org
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (3735674)
Church Wardens:	Hester Higton (5974675) James Morgan (4476520)
Secretary	Carol Beeby (3847431), (07592 975002)
Treasurer	Mike Higton (5974675)
Deanery Synod	Robert Scott-Biggs (3735907). David Eltringham (01388 746058)
Other members:-	
	Amy Gooding (07753606115) Janette Foxe (07753606115) Tom Hobbs (07857437860) Sue Morgan (3781172) Jean Hodgson (3780289) Isabel Rae (9039145) Steve Hodgson (3780289)
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	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop (01388 730855)
Organist	Richard Hird
Village Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (3847431), Deborah Hodge (01388 745455), Jean Hodgson (3780289), Valeria Dietz.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (3735674)
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (3780858)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674), Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Hester Higton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Deborah Hodge, Jean Hodgson, Jean Merrington, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan.
SMD Team:	Evelyn Aitken, Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Carys Funnell, Richard Gooding, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Tom Hobbs, Martin Peacock, Sally Scott-Biggs.
Fabric:	James Morgan (chair), Peter Cook, Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Geoff Knott, John Roberts, Robert Scott-Biggs, Edward Staines.
Website	www.stbrandon.org.uk

October Newsletter entries – no later than **September 18th**
Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear friends

I am delighted that we can now resume delivery of this Newsletter throughout the parish of Brancepeth. If you are reading it for the first time since moving here, or for the first time since March, Welcome (back)! Many have accessed the Newsletter online and a few have received it via post in the months since our last fully-delivered issue. We are especially grateful to Sue Morgan, our editor, for keeping going through lockdown, gently cajoling contributors and finding local photos to cheer and connect us. Amidst changing guidelines and uncertain times, the newsletter has been one of the strands of continuity in Brancepeth which has strengthened our church and community.

Another such strand has been St Brandon's weekly worship via Zoom, and we are thankful that so many have taken part regularly on Sunday mornings. As we move these services back into the church building, still with the facility to join online, we celebrate God's continuing goodness and faithfulness. We look forward to welcoming you all, whether you have been part of St Brandon's for years or would just like to give it a try, for example on 13th September when we hold the village Harvest Festival in church.

We need to acknowledge, however, the challenges of recent months and the sense of change and uncertainty which typifies life at the moment. This particularly affects those who are 'key workers' and all who remain vulnerable to COVID-19; young people moving through our education system, and all whose loved ones are spread across countries or regions with restrictions on travel. The Christian faith is deeply rooted in trials and struggles, for Jesus lived a humble, human life with many challenges, disappointments and losses. Yet through his unjust and brutal execution on the cross, he overcame the power of darkness and rose to new and eternal life.

We don't need to pretend we are 'fine' to God, for he understands our lives and losses: God has been with us every day since lockdown. God's love never changes, whatever the future may hold. Recently we sang the beautiful hymn, 'There's a wideness in God's mercy', and I'd like to offer you these words of encouragement:

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement giv'n.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measure of man's mind;
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

F.W.Faber (1814-63)

With all good wishes

Anna

Anna Brooker, Priest in Charge

St Brandon's September 2020 – Services and readings

morning services with resume

in the church building from 6th September.

We will ensure that everyone can still join in via Zoom if they are unable to be physically present. In all cases, everyone is welcome!

In addition to the services below, each day Monday – Friday,

***Morning Prayer** is shared in church and online at **8.15am** and there is a **Midday Eucharist** from Brancepeth Castle at **12noon**.*

From Monday 14th September, Midday Eucharist can be attended in person, as well as on zoom; please alert Alison ahead of arriving.

Thursday Evening Prayer will continue as a fortnightly online service.

Online service invitations are sent via NAVIGATOR, St Brandon's email link.

Please phone or email for further details

Thurs 3rd Online Evening Service 7.30pm

Sun 6th September 13th after Trinity Parish Eucharist -10.15

Readings: First:	Caroline Middleditch	Romans 13: 8-end
Gospel:	Carys Funnell	Matthew 18: 15-20
	Alison Hobbs	Intercessions

Baptism of James Stidwell 3.00pm

Sun 13th HARVEST FESTIVAL All Age Service 10.15am

With procession to church from the crossroads, meeting at 10am

Readings: First:	A young person	Psalm 126
Gospel:	A young person	John 6: 25-35
	Liam Dietz	Intercessions

Thurs 17th Online Evening Service 7.30pm

Sun 20th 15th after Trinity Parish Eucharist 10.15am

Readings: First:	Amy Gooding	Philippians 1: 21-end
Gospel:	David Eltringham	Matthew 20: 1-16

Sun 27th 16th after Trinity Parish Eucharist 10.15am
Readings: First: Jean Hodgson Philippians 2: 1-13
Gospel: Nick Brooker Matthew 21: 23-32

Thurs 1st Oct Online Evening Service 7.30pm

Sun 4th Oct 17th after Trinity Morning Praise 10.15am
Readings: First: Richard Gooding Philippians 3: 4b-14
Gospel: Jean Merrington Matthew 21: 33-end

Please wear a face covering when attending services in the church building.
THANK YOU

If you have not heard from us and would like to be involved in our Zoom services please send an email to hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop or call Hester or Mike on 0191 597 4675. Details are also posted on the church website at stbrandon.org.uk.

Receiving the newsletter electronically

St Brandon's is committed to providing a copy of the newsletter to everybody in the parish (and to members of the congregation who live outside the parish), and we are delighted to be able to resume the delivery of paper copies to all households, after a break of several months. That said, we know that there are some people in both the village and the wider church congregation who would prefer to have a link to an electronic version. We are very happy to provide that service and will roll it out for the October issue for anyone who would like.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically rather than on paper, please email me on hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop. You will need to let me know your street address (so that it can be removed from the delivery rotas) and *all* the email addresses for people in the household who wish to receive the link to the newsletter. In accordance with GDPR regulations, these addresses will only be used for this purpose and will not be employed for sending you other communications. You can add further email addresses at any time, simply by dropping me a line.

You will also need to let us know if you move away from Brancepeth, so that we can make sure that a paper copy is delivered to the new residents, but we will provide a reminder about this in each monthly email.

Hester Higton



Harvest Festival

Sun 13th September
10.15am

This year there will be a **Harvest Procession** through the village.

You are welcome to join this and bring gifts of fresh produce and non-perishable foods.

Children may like to dress up- and adults too!

The procession will meet at the crossroads at **10am** to walk down to church.

Others are welcome to come straight to church at the usual time.

All proceeds to DASH- Durham Action for Single Housing

Sidespersons

Sept 6th Sally & Robert Scott-Biggs & Nick Brooker
Sept 13th Fiona & David Eltringham & Sue Morgan
Sept 20th Peter & Jayne Cook & Myrleen Stewart
Sept 27th Nick Brooker, Caroline Middleditch & Joan Nesbitt
Oct 4th Sally & Robert Scott-Biggs & Sue Morgan

Servers

Bridget Higton
Tom Higton
Jonny
Tom Hobbs
Bridget Higton

Flowers

Sept 6th Gerry Jennings
Sept 13th Harvest
Sept 20th Sheena Murray
Sept 27th Jean Hodgson
Oct 4th Eileen Crawford

St. Brandon's Church – Grass Cutting Rota 2020

30 th Aug - 12 th Sept	James Morgan	Lester Ball
13 th Sept - 26 th Sept	Simon Elliott	David Jackson
27 th Sept - End	Edward, Michael, Martin	

Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or a friendly chat?

Please tell Deborah Hodge, Authorised Pastoral Assistant, and she will get in touch. 01388 745455

PRAYER REQUESTS Please text to this dedicated number: 07598 600571 and your prayer requests will be included in our regular Friday morning service. Normally we would have been inviting you to leave a prayer on the altar, so this is the safe alternative!

Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary September 2020

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

**'You are always more ready to hear than we to pray
And to give more than either we desire or deserve' ***

- 1 For people you know who are in pain because of Covid 19
 - 2 Goodwell Lea south
 - 3 For the new and different school year; for safety, calmness, love and patience for all,
 - 4 Goodwell Lea north
 - 5 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood
 - 6 **Trinity 13 'Help us to proclaim the good news of your love'**
 - 7 Village South, Castle and Lodge
 - 8 Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages
 - 9 For those training in ministry, lay and ordained
 - 10 For local universities, preparing for different ways of teaching and organising
 - 11 Quarry Hill, the cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm, Goodwell Field
 - 12 Oakenshaw Road, Village South, Castle and Lodge
 - 13 **Trinity 14 Harvest festival. Jesus 'has opened for us a new and living way into your presence'**
 - 14 **Holy Cross Day** Help us to learn what it means to 'deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ'
 - 15 Spring Farm, Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon, Brawns Den
 - 16 For those who are facing unemployment, eviction and homelessness as the effects of Covid 19 take hold
 - 17 **Hildegard 1179 Abbess, leader, artist** For women in leadership, for vision and tenacity
 - 18 For those who live and work in care homes, particularly your friends and relatives
 - 19 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry Garth
 - 20 **Trinity 15 May we be 'steadfast in faith and active in service'**
 - 21 **Matthew** For writers and preachers who help us understand and live faith better
 - 22 Scription Lodge, Scription Farm, Peppermires, Culmaran, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm
 - 23 Holywell, East Parks
 - 24 Durham Rd and the Forge
 - 25 For governments and international organisations to make wise and urgent decisions about climate change
 - 26 Whitworth Lane, Black House
 - 27 **Trinity 16 May we have 'grace and power faithfully to fulfil' what we are called to do**
 - 28 Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View
 - 29 **Michael and all angels** Help us to be open to God's communication, whether or not we can see angels!
 - 30 Golf Club, Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy
- (* quotes from collects for Sundays after Trinity)

Prayer Station in Church

At the beginning of lockdown, the Prayer Team redoubled their efforts in engaging intentionally with praying for everyone in the community of St Brandon's and the village of Brancepeth. We were asked to think of ways to help people to pray when the church re-opened for private prayer.

A member of the prayer team had a clear vision of an image of a large candle as a focus for prayer and hope, to be placed in the church in order to help people pray, in the absence of being able to physically light candles in church (a practice helpful to many). I am very pleased to say a very talented member of the congregation was able to realise the vision and has painted the most glorious image of a lit candle, inspired by the artist Klimt. The image is placed on a board in the south transept of St Brandon's (pictured) and we encourage people to use it in whatever way is helpful. Many of the shapes and features of the piece have been inspired and taken from the shapes and colours in our beautiful church. The image is even more striking and life-like in the flesh.

If the candle helps and speaks to even one person of the hope that is in us and the light of Christ in these dark times, it will have done as intended. Thank you to the wonderful artist for faithfully working with the vision and bringing this to fruition and to the member of the prayer team for being obedient and faithful in describing their vision. We hope it will bless the congregation and visitors to St Brandon's greatly.

Amy Gooding (Prayer Team)

Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or a friendly chat?

Please tell Deborah Hodge, Authorised Pastoral Assistant, and she will get in touch. 01388 745455

PRAYER REQUESTS Please text to this dedicated number: 07598 600571 and your prayer requests will be included in our regular Friday morning service. Normally we would have been inviting you to leave a prayer on the altar, so this is the safe alternative!

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' on zoom until covid regulations relax.



Tuesdays 8 & 22 Sept 2020 at 11:00
Tuesdays 6 & 20 Oct 2020 at 11:00

*For more information, and the zoom link,
please email alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk*

Rev. Alison, and Deborah, St Brandon's Church

Book Club

The next meeting will be on Friday September 11th at the home of Evelyn Aitken if possible. If not we will meet on Zoom again.

There will be a change to the order of books to read so, in September, we will be Discussing, 'Total Recall', by Sara Paretsky.

The book to read in October is now, 'Half of a Yellow Sun', by Chimamanda Ngozi.

The meeting will be on Friday October 16th at Sheila Gardiner's home,
2 Goodwell Lea.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons

Thank you - A Month on the Run

Many, many thanks to all who gave so generously to support us as we attempted to raise some money for The Children's Society. During June we ran over 160 miles and raised just over £1,500 (including gift aid)

Fiona and David Eltringham



Messy Church online 4pm Sunday 20th September

Theme: *Harvest*

The session will be held via Zoom and advertised in the Navigator and on the church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons/>

Details will be sent by email to regular attenders

BCA CINEMA CLUB



Wednesday, 30 September at 7.30pm

‘The Pirates of Penzance’

As you’ve never seen it before! A cheerful offering from Australia.

Please book your socially distanced place with Joan Taylor 378 3630

Under current rules facial coverings should be worn but this may change.

Please carry your own glass or mug if you are bringing a drink as the kitchen will not be open. Please also arrive early to allow for safe entry and seating.

Village Hall update

I'm delighted to inform you that, following a detailed Covid-19 health & safety risk assessment, Brancepeth Village Hall will reopen to hall hirers and user groups (those which are permitted by current government guidelines to resume) from **1st September 2020**.

To help keep hall users as safe as possible during the current health crisis the following room occupancy arrangements will apply:

Room	Maximum number of people permitted at any one time based on social distancing requirements (2 meters, or 1 meter plus with mitigated arrangements including using face coverings)
Committee Room	6 persons
Snooker Room	6 persons
Kitchen	1 person NB: only available for light preparation of drinks and food e.g. using the kettle and washing items – please bring your own utensils and crockery. There are no tea-towels, please use the paper towels provided.
Upstairs Hall	30 persons

For further information about accessing and using the hall please see up to date information and guidelines available on the BCA website:

<http://www.brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/>

Whilst the village hall has been closed we have been able to progress the stage refurbishment plans which have included: new stage side curtains, star cloth backdrop, safety steps and new overhead stage storage. The upstairs hall has also been repainted. A mobile phone booster has recently been fitted in the hall to improve the signal in the building and the surrounding area. This was part-funded by the BCA and Brancepeth Parish Council.

Kind regards,

Peter Aitken

BCA Chairman.

Sue Morgan (SM) interviewed by Sabine Heslop (SH)

SH: How long have you and your family been living in Brancepeth?

SM: Four generations of my family have lived in the village since 1975. First my husband, then me, then his parents and now my son, daughter in law and grandson.

SH: What do you like in Brancepeth?

SM: The community. The size of Brancepeth is just right, so that you get to know people. We quickly got to know our neighbours, who happened to be the churchwardens, and so I soon found myself involved with the church again. I was PCC secretary for 28 years, church warden for six and now I edit the newsletter.

SH: Bless you - that's a long time! What did you do professionally?

SM: I was a teacher of Geography and English. When James went to school I did some supply work at Framwellgate School and when a job in the special needs department came up it drew my interest. I did a Post Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia as part of a MA in Special Needs and worked as a SENCO there for several years. I spent my last seven years of teaching at East Durham (Houghall) College, working with dyslexic students.

SH: Great - this is important work! What did your husband do?

SM: John taught Art at Durham Johnston School specialising in Ceramics. Our son James went to the same school, which was practical as well as giving him a good start in life.

SH: Sure. What do you do in retirement? I guess a lot of garden work – this garden looks fabulous!

SM: Yes, I like gardening, I like the combination of managed and wilder areas.

SH: I can see that you have a hand in it, but at the same time, you let nature be itself. It is really beautiful!

SM: *(smiles)* Also, we liked to travel. Our last big journey took us to India. What an experience! The extremes in this country assail you everywhere you go. We saw people living in utter poverty in the back streets of Delhi, and rats coming out of every corner. But also fabulous wealth and beauty in the Palaces and temples.

SH: Uh! What made you go to India, and why did you end up in the back streets?

SM: We were both interested in the culture and the art, and it is also a good place for vegetarians – we knew we would be properly fed! All those lovely curries! We went with an ethical travel company, which ran projects providing work for disadvantaged locals, and trying to feed the money earned through tourism back into the local economy. This is how we came to see the other face of India – most tourists see only the excessive wealth and exuberance of the palaces. I will never forget these experiences – but you would have to harden your heart to be able to live there.

SH: I can imagine. What happened to you husband?

SM: It was very unexpected, John had always been fit and healthy, but then he was diagnosed with cancer too late to respond to treatment. He carried on through the treatment finishing as many jobs as he could in the year he had left. It's very hard living alone after forty years of happy marriage but I am very fortunate that our son James and his family live so close by. I see my grandson Paul almost every day.

SH: This is good. I guess the Covid-19 crisis has made things harder?

SM: Indeed! Had John still been here, the crisis would have hardly touched us. If you are alone, it is tedious, and you are constantly confronted with what you have lost, especially in the evenings. John was such a practical person, he always had a project on the go. He renovated four houses in the village and he was also Chairperson of the Allotments – a job that has somehow now fallen to me.

SH: I heard he also did many things for the church?

SM: Oh yes, little bits of John's work are all over the church, for example the burned cross.

SH: It is so beautiful in its simplicity, and so stark in its message!

SM: Indeed. He also made the white communion set Anna is using on zoom services.

SH: Really? I admire it greatly - such grace and pure beauty! Now my last question: What are your hopes for Brancepeth?

SM: I think it has a lot to offer. It is wonderful what Brancepeth has been doing over the summer to encourage children – it is so important that Brancepeth has something for them, since they offer so much to us! Our future is our children.

SH: Quite right! Thank you, Sue, it was lovely to speak to you. You are doing so much behind the scenes! God bless you!

Coming soon

Shoebox Sunday - 18th October 2020

This year, St Brandon's is supporting Blythswood Care in their Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Blythswood is a charity founded in 1966 in Glasgow by Rev. Jackie Ross who wanted to show Jesus' love with practical action and care for people who experience isolation, rejection and need in the UK and overseas, and is best known for its Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This year the Shoeboxes are going across Eastern Europe.

Leaflets with information on what to include in the shoebox will be available in church from the beginning of September, and more information is available on

www.blythswood.org.

Jayne Cook

Dates for the Diary:-

Sept	11 th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, Zoom or The Copse
Sept	13 th	Sun	Harvest Festival, 10.00am Crossroads or 10.15am in Church
Sept	20 th	Sun	Messy Church, 4.00pm, Zoom or details online
Sept	30 th	Wed	Cinema Club, Pirates of Penzance, 7.30pm, Village hall

Photos

Front cover ©Amy Gooding– Prayer Station in Church based on a Klimt candle

Inside front cover © Sue Morgan. Winners of the Scarecrow Competition!

- 1st Place – The Nelson Family, 1 Durham Road.
- 2nd Place – The Jackson Family, 4 The Village
- 3rd Place – The Hall Family, Bridleway

Back cover © Eileen Donovan – The first orchid to appear in the newly establishing wild area of the churchyard. Sadly, dug out and removed by unknown persons together with a bird bath in the new churchyard. Please could visitors to the churchyard report any suspicious activity to a churchwarden.

Inside back cover © Alison Smith – daughter of Diana & Tim Lovell.

Pictures sent on the occasion of Diana & Tim's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. -Wedding Day, Diana & Tim in the Garden today, the cake, and Tim with Mike Samuels.

Alison writes,

'Dad also had another celebration the week of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary by winning the most prestigious race in the North of England's racing pigeon calendar, the Queen's Cup on the 11th July. Attached is a picture of Dad with his pigeon racing partner Mike Samuels and the winning pigeon.'

Congratulations on all counts!

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

September newsletter entries no later than 18th August

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

Peter Aitken	<i>Chairman</i>	Ian Stoker	
Martyn Jones	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Choir & Church</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary (& Website)</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings & Garden Club</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Subscription, Wednesday</i>
Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>		<i>Coffee & Cinema Club</i>
Anna Brooker	<i>Church Representative</i>		

<http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/> Tel: 0191 3783952

Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Peter Aitken, The Copse, Foxes Row (3789908)
Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
Treasurer	Margot Harrison, Downgarth (3784813)
Membership	Joan Taylor, 5 The Village (3783630)
Hall Bookings	Geraldine Jennings, 6 Goodwell Lea (3781583)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Badminton	Peter Hodge, (01388 745455)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club	Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (3784200)
Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	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

Chairperson	Dave Armstrong – chair (07843 343846) James Dalton – vice chair (3780771) Christine Jones (3789297) Jessie Brown (3782748) Michael Lowe (3780974) Sheila Chapman (3784408) Ian Stoker (3784986)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346
County Councillors:	olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org





