

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

Priest-in-Charge, Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill

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Notices

Sunday Services for May:

As the national lockdown eases we will have two services a month for May and June. We will keep the situation under review to develop an ongoing pattern of worship that works for the benefice.

Sunday 2nd May, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle

Sunday 16th May, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Kirklington

Sunday 6th June, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Mary's Stapleton

Our churches continue to remain open for private prayer (except Hethersgill).

Funerals: maximum = 30. The maximum number of people that can attend is **30**, including the officiant, undertaker, and pallbearers.

Weddings: maximum = 15. We are expecting this limit to be raised to **30 from 17th May**. This number includes the bride and groom.

Baptisms: maximum = church dependent (20-30). Baptisms (christenings) may take place and are now restricted to the maximum number a church can safely hold based on its COVID-19 risk assessment. Presently these are Bewcastle – 20; Stapleton – 30; Hethersgill – 20; Kirklington – 30. These numbers include the priest, church staff, parents, godparents and all children.

Note: legal limits on all events are expected to be lifted on 21st June if the COVID situation remains under control.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings. Although we only had our annual meetings in September last year, we are required by law to have another round before the end of May. Government and Church of England restrictions on physical gatherings are still in place at the moment, and are unlikely to have been removed before these meetings. Nevertheless, with the numbers that usually attend we should be well within the risk assessment limits for gatherings in each of the churches. Notice is therefore given for Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Election of Church Wardens for each of our three parishes as follows:

St Cuthbert Bewcastle, 7pm Monday 10th May 2021 at Bewcastle Church

St Mary Stapleton, 7pm Monday 17th May 2021 at Stapleton Church

St Cuthbert Kirklington with St Mary Hethersgill, 7pm 24th May 2021 at Kirklington Church.

Full statutory notices will be displayed on church websites and noticeboards where feasible.

Bewcastle Scouts have continued to run through the pandemic but on line most of the time. They are hoping that face to face meetings will start again in April after Easter.

Contacts are : Simon Barrett 01228 497970 David Harding 07935172942

bewcastlescouts@gmail.com

As the distribution of paper copies of the newsletter is still restricted at present, we have arranged several pick-up points around the Benefice where you can collect a copy from a box. These are: Kirklington Church porch, Hethersgill Church porch, Stapleton Church, Bewcastle Church, Stapleton Parish Hall Porch, Smithfield Garage office, Garry Phillip's Garage. This Newsletter can also be downloaded from the following sites: www.Bewcastle.com/news-events, www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notices

Deadline for the June 2021 issue is 1pm on Saturday 22nd May to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, LyneholmeFord, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me

I often reminisce these days. My thoughts turn to events of forty years ago when I had been a postman for ten years and five years as a Reader. I was also involved in giving talks to groups of people who were grateful for a speaker and generous in their praise. It all started when four of us walked from coast to coast, starting at Rockcliffe and finishing five days later at Holy Island. At that time, I was a member of the Church of England Men's Society and succumbed to pressure from the lecture secretary to give an account of our adventure. I then found myself on a speakers list and finding it difficult to refuse any invitation to oblige. I prepared other talks and found myself answering telephone calls and filling up an appointment diary. One call was from a lady who had the difficult job of finding a speaker at very short notice – having been let down at the last minute. I reassured her that I could attend and not to worry anymore. Her thanks were effusive but in the end she overdid it – “Thank you so much – you know; we couldn't get anyone else”.

I had an arrangement with a friend in Carlisle, a senior member of the Salvation Army who gathered up pensioners who didn't get out much and treated them to an afternoon tea and some light entertainment. I was honoured to be so described and pleased to be involved. As I was about to begin one of my short, and hopefully humorous, talks, Roland Little of the Salvation Army asked if I would mind if he took notes of some of my anecdotes for future use – to which I agreed. I don't remember the gist of my talk, but I remember using an invitation I saw on a Wayside Pulpit outside a Methodist Chapel – ‘If you are tired of sin, come in’. Roland was sitting at the side of the stage and began to write some notes to help him remember. I then told them of the little message which had been written beneath the text – ‘If not, ring this number!’. A local telephone number was written out in full. At that point there was an unusually loud response to the story – tables were being thumped, there was loud applause, the menfolk were on their feet and pointing at Roland. I turned and saw him writing notes as we had agreed – the audience saw him writing down a telephone number!

We once went on holiday to a hotel in Margate and took the opportunity of good weather to explore that lovely corner of England. We were advised to purchase daily bus tickets and get on and off as we wished. It was here at Broadstairs that I encountered another Wayside Pulpit with the picture of a stern looking figure pointing straight at you – and the demand – ‘Where will you be on Judgement Day?’ One of our travelling colleagues had added another message – ‘Still waiting for the Ramsgate bus!’

I have always looked on the month of May as being a busy Church month including a lambing service, Rogation, Ascension and Whitsun – the latter being seen as the birth of the Church – when the speaking began. If I had to choose my favourite message from a Wayside Pulpit I would draw your attention to the word Church – but with the two middle letters left out – and the question asked, ‘What's missing? The answer of course is, U.R.

We love our Churches – so well maintained, so full of memories – but they are really just piles of stones. They are meeting places – you are the Church.

Dick Davidson