

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

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

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Funerals

Tom Moscrop of Ryhill Park, Burial of Ashes, Friday 4th June, St Cuthbert's Kirklington

Ellen Maureen Charnock, 78, of Sleetbeck Farm, Sleetbeck, Tuesday 8th June, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle

Hazel Emma Brown, 63, of Longrigg, Monday 14th June, Carlisle Crematorium

Baptisms

William Harry Stirling Burton of Hewstown, Hethersgill, Sunday 20th June 2021, St Mary's Hethersgill

Sunday Services for July:

As the national lockdown continues more or less in its existing form, we are moving to weekly Sunday services rotating around the Benefice for the next few months. As previously, we will keep the situation under review as we develop an ongoing pattern of worship that works for the benefice. Please note that for the time being the wearing of masks in church remains mandatory for anyone not in the act of leading worship, and we are still not allowed to sing. Hopefully these restrictions will be removed by the end of July.

Sunday 4th July, 6pm, Evensong, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle

Sunday 11th July, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Kirklington

Sunday 18th July, 10am, Holy Communion, St Mary's Stapleton

Sunday 25th July, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Mary's Hethersgill

Sunday 1st August, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle

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

Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms: maximum = church dependent (20-30). Life event services (Occasional Offices) may now take place with numbers restricted to the maximum 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 are based on individuals maintaining the usual 2m distancing, so may increase slightly where households sit together.

From our Rural Dean, Revd Edward Johnsen

In the first week of July I'm walking 60 odd miles to Newcastle and hoping to raise funds for the Brampton Deanery Network Youth Church. The walk is from St Thomas a Becket's Farlam to St Thomas the Martyr's in Newcastle City Centre. I will do much of it by night, following the River Tyne. I am looking to finish the walk on 7th July, one of the two days St Thomas a Becket has in the calendar. Last year was the 850th anniversary of his martyrdom.

To donate online, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/edward-johnsen-1> Thank you!

The Knowe Church plans to reopen for services Sunday July 4th 1.45 pm Rev'd Alister Smeaton is taking the service.

Saturday July 24th & Sunday July 25th 11am to 4pm both days Bewcastle Bazaar in Knowe Church grounds. Refreshments. All welcome.

Kirklington Church yard up keep .We would all like to appreciate and enjoy seeing this community space kept tidy, however the only way regular up keep is possible is through voluntary help from the whole community! Volunteers would be very welcome for strimming, mowing grass etc. Please contact Margaret on 01228675652 or Sandra 01228675510

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-notice

Deadline for the August 2021 issue is 1pm on Saturday 17th July to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lynholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me

July 2021-----**BENEFICE NEWS**-----July 2021

I was looking out of our kitchen window just before lunch. There, outside the church was a spotless blue tractor bedecked with white ribbons. Beside it a growing number of cars out of which stepped ladies in colourful silk dresses and posh hats, farmers in morning suits and a gaggle of small children racing about with an energy that deserted me years ago. A wedding. If you want a clue whose wedding, try Sleetbeck and KirkAndrews !

It could of course have been a funeral or a christening. A snapshot of the almost endless procession of people who come to visit our local Church and who are always so welcome. Relatives come to place flowers on a grave. Reivers. Travellers the world over. Often our visitor's book records visitors from as far away as Canada, Australia or the United States. Pilgrims. Explorers. Those perhaps who are not quite sure why they have stopped by, but just sense that many old Churches, are places where God may often specially be found.

And that's just it.

There's an old saying that if you want to find God everywhere you must first find Him somewhere and where better to look than in so many of our simple rural churches. You may not worship regularly - or perhaps like many of us - be unsure exactly what you do or do not believe. But every church by its very presence proclaims that God is in residence, there to be found for all with the eye of faith.

My old Dad (who for many years was a formidable Archdeacon) often said that he could do almost anything in the Diocese except close a church! For that simple building is a symbol of so much that people still cling to and hold most precious.

So A heartfelt thank you to all who long, long ago first built our own 4 churches. A heartfelt thank you too to all who help to keep them water tight and welcoming. They know who they are and I feel both proud and grateful for all they do. Theirs is a particular form of witness which is precious beyond words and which helps keep the rumour of God alive. Not for nothing do so many write in our visitors book "A place of beauty and of peace. Wonderfully loved and cared for "

We started with a picture. Here's another with which to end. It comes from a one-time saintly priest and countryman George Herbert, and describes a picture of yesteryear.

A ploughman is ploughing his field and at noonday hears someone ring the Angelus on the church bell, marking that moment when the Angel Gabriel is said to have visited Mary to invite her to be the mother of Our Lord. He stops his horses, rests on his plough, takes off his hat and says a simple thank you that always and everywhere God is present with His people, to love, to bless and to care.

As beloved Dick the post wrote in his letter a short time ago, we do well to cherish our churches and all they stand for. They proclaim a Faith that God has always had His Home amongst us, and that His care and love are there for us still, both to own, to celebrate and to proclaim .

Bishop John