

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

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

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From the Registers

Baptisms

3rd October Summer-Grace Mawson at St Cuthbert's, Bewcastle

Services for November:

Sunday 7th November, 10am, Harvest Thanksgiving at Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Kirklington

Sunday 14th November, Remembrance Sunday 10.50am Remembrance Service, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle
10.50am Remembrance Service, St Mary's Hethersgill

Sunday 21st November 10am, Holy Communion, St Mary's Stapleton

Sunday 28th November, Advent Sunday, 10am, Holy Communion, St Cuthbert's Kirklington

Sunday 5th December, 10am, Morning Prayer, St Cuthbert's Bewcastle

Monday 8th November 7pm, Stapleton PCC, Stapleton Hall

Tuesday 30th November, Archdeacon's Visitation of the churches

We are now singing again in all our services – why not come and join in!

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

Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms: Life event services (Occasional Offices) may now take place with unrestricted numbers but still with advisory distancing. This means we are still asking that numbers invited to services respect social distancing capacities. If attending an event at church where a large number of people are likely to be present, please be aware of others, and try to keep to a minimum of 1m distant from others, if possible. Masks may be worn but are not compulsory.

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

Services first Sunday in month 2.15pm

Sunday 31st October 12 noon Kirklington with Hethersgill Church Harvest Lunch in Hethersgill Parish Hall. Tickets £10 (under 10s free) in advance from 01228 675389 or 01228 675652 or any PCC member. Please bring your own crockery and cutlery. Gifts of produce and homemade preserves gratefully received. All welcome

Saturday 27th November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall

Saturday 4th December Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Christmas Fair. Home made refreshments and stalls. Further details to follow.

Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th December 11.30 am – 4 pmThe Knowe Church hope to hold the annual Christmas Festival Light refreshments available. All welcome.

Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC would like to thank everyone for their help with the grass cutting at St. Cuthbert's, Kirklington. It is much appreciated and we hope you all continue in the future to help keep this community space looking tidy.

November 2021-----**BENEFICE NEWS**-----*November 2021*

There's a serious debate currently taking place at all levels in Church Life about the kind of "Animal" God means His Church to be. Since it affects us all I want to explore it.

Some say that if the Church is to survive at all in our modern Post Christian society, she needs to change radically. She needs, such people say, to make her top priority the planting of 10,000 new House Churches whose members will fearlessly live and proclaim the Christian way of life of those first disciples whom we read about in the New Testament.

We need to have the courage to set light to so much luggage of the past, they say. To reduce drastically for example that great army of professional full time clergy (especially perhaps Bishops and Archdeacons!)who are expensive to train, expensive to employ and equally expensive to pension off! To replace them with local unpaid lay volunteers - scores of them!

We need, such people say, to be willing to let go many of our church buildings which so often are in the wrong place, expensive to maintain and all too often poorly attended. And while we are about it to challenge our present congregations which so often are full of passengers! Not least to put together new forms of worship which will appeal to those on the fringe.

In short we need a radical and imaginative spiritual renewal.

In the opposite camp are those for whom such a strategy would be not just devastating but a complete betrayal of all that Mother Church has stood for all down the years. For these people, the Church to which they feel they have always belonged, is more like Old Father Thames. Occasionally it will run swiftly, but for the most part, slowly, steadily and at an ordered pace.

Take Ministry, for example, such people say. From earliest days immense care has always been taken in the selection and training of clergy. Deliberately (and admittedly at great expense) they have been trained to be prayerful, faithful, diligent, pastoral. Accountable not just to their congregations, but to their bishop whose episcopal office is in itself a reminder of continuity and tradition. How does all this tie in with "local volunteers"?

Or take Church Buildings. For historical reasons, as over the years people moved into the towns, many churches are now certainly in the wrong place and expensive to maintain. Yet they remain powerful reminders of God present amongst His people. Special places where People have gathered in His Presence to mark great occasions of national, community or family life. Holy places where God somehow is always just waiting to be found especially perhaps by those who are carrying heavy burdens.

Just remember this before closing them

Not least when it comes to Faith, such people would plead Faith is seldom a one-off conversion moment. For most; it is the beginning of the journey of a lifetime during which at times God may seem close, but all too often as dull and irrelevant as an ancient aunt in Australia. So we need time and space, they say. Permission to sit in the back pews where we can think and pray on our own terms. A spiritual shallow end where we are not made to feel inadequate or second class Christians.

I suppose in all this as an Anglican I want to have it both ways. Genuinely I admire the commitment and enthusiasm of those who seek new ways - and often at great personal expense. In this regard I notice that almost half of those who were ordained in Carlisle Cathedral in the summer were financially self supporting. Which I find truly impressive.

It's just that in all my life as priest and bishop (some 58 years now !) I have found that what makes most sense to me (and I believe to most whom I have sought to serve) is a discipleship which whilst at times may call for courage, for the most part is about gentleness. Welcome, affirmation, listening, encouragement. A recognising that at best most of us struggle to work out what we believe and that what all of us need is to remember that we have a very long way still to travel

But maybe I'm just a dull old stick. Unimaginative and sleepy like an old tabby cat!

What do you think? I 'd love to know.

+ John

Friday 5th November 10 am Fir Ends Primary School Air Ambulance Collection Bags can be dropped off from the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd November They accept clothing, towels, bedding, footwear (in pairs), curtains, bags & belts .NO Duvets or pillows please. Any information contact Angie Smith on 07917341301 or Fir Ends School on 01228 675283

Wednesday 10th November Stapleton WI Meeting Dot McBride : Belly Dancing. Competition: Silk Scarf and flower of the month.

Friday 19th November 6.30 pm Brampton Fairtrade Group Autumn Quiz at Brampton Community Centre. Tickets £8 including two course meal. Contact Eileen Norman, 9 Ridley Gardens, Brampton CA8 1BY. Come as a team or individually to join others.

Saturday 20 November 6 pm Pudding Supper at Roadhead Hall The Mains of Byers Farm are organising a pudding supper, raising money for the church roof repairs. Enjoy a bowl of soup then eat as much pudding as you like! Tea and coffee will be served too. (BYO alcohol). Crockery and cutlery provided. Only £10 per person. Book your tickets by calling 48853 or by emailing margaretmmain@hotmail.com (note the 3 x "m" in the address) or popping your name, phone number and number of tickets required in the honesty box at Byers Farm road end.

Tuesday 23rd November 7.30 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Early Winter Supper & short AGM at Roadhead Hall. Tickets £15 for 2 course Knife & Fork Supper. (Bring your own alcohol) Reply by 17th November to Barbara 016977 48212. Proceeds to Bewcastle Church Roof.

Thursday 25th to Monday 29th November Lanercost Christmas Craft Fair Open every day from 10 am to 5 pm. Forty quality stalls. Admission £1 accompanied children free. Further details contact Elizabeth Harding 0169772538.

Knit and Natter at Stapleton Hall, every Tuesday evening from 7pm-9pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. For further details contact Carol on 01697543094.

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK Committee have decided not to hold their annual Whist Drive and Drawing this year. We will be delivering the donation letters as usual and anyone wishing to donate can do so through any committee member or Gary Phillips. The committee was formed 50 years ago back in 1971 and sadly we lost one of our longest serving members earlier this year, Mrs Mary Phillips who served for 27 years as secretary and continued to be a very active member. 50 years of fundraising is an amazing achievement and we would like to thank everyone for supporting us over those years. Research has led to more cancer screening services and the chances of survival for most cancer types is improving all the time, there is still much more research needed into certain types of cancer, so any donation however small is much appreciated

Bewcastle Primary School are looking to start a play group for babies and toddlers. If you can help set it up and look towards running it (it's easy) we would love to hear from you. For more information contact Emma at Bewcastle school on 016977 48662.

Bewcastle Scouts Contact. Simon Barrett 01228 497970 or David Harding 07935172942
bewcastlescouts@gmail.com

Newsletters can be picked up from: Kirklington Church porch, Hethersgill Church porch, Stapleton Church, Bewcastle Church, Stapleton Public Hall Porch, Smithfield Garage office, Garry Phillip's Garage. Or downloaded : www.Bewcastle.com/news-events, www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice

Deadline for the December 2021 issue is 1pm on Saturday 20th November to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me