

**For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown**

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

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**Church Services for January**

	Bewcastle	Hethersgill	Kirklington	Stapleton
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> Christmas 2		<b>10 am HC</b>		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b> Epiphany				<b>10 am HC</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> January</b> Epiphany 2			<b>10 am HC</b>	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> Epiphany 3	<b>6 pm HC</b>			
30 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 4		<b>10 am MP</b>		
<b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun before Lent				<b>10 am MP</b>

**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

**Maurice Peter Wood (89)**, formerly of Chapel House, Ullermire, Hethersgill, at St Cuthbert's Kirklington on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

**Jean Doreen Graham (94)**, formerly of Anguswells, Hethersgill, at St Mary's Hethersgill on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm, Kirklington and Hethersgill PCC, Netheronsett Farm**

**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, Archdeacon's Visitation of the churches**

**COVID and Church services.** COVID restrictions are changing on an almost daily basis. At the time of writing (mid-December), church services continue to take place, masks are required to be worn indoors (although not necessarily for singing), but numbers are not restricted. However, it would be better if you were able to wear a face-mask while singing and try to maintain social distancing while in church. Baptisms, weddings and funerals may all still take place and are not restricted by law. However, social distancing should be maintained, especially in crowded services such as funerals.

**Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle**

Services first Sunday in month 2.15pm

***“As I thought about my own vulnerability I thought how the God I have come to know chose in His life amongst us to make Himself vulnerable too. Born in a stable. A refugee in Egypt. So often His Ministry was about being ridiculed and reviled...”***

I came down to breakfast one morning late in October to discover that my mouth was sagging in one corner. Could it be a mini stroke?

So off we toddled to A and E at Carlisle Infirmary where I was examined by a cheerful young doctor ( like police officers most doctors these days look young! ) “ It’s not a stroke.” he pronounced. triumphantly.” “It’s Bells Palsy. Facial Paralysis. Not serious. Nobody knows where it comes from or why. You will get over it in time. But I’ve arranged for you to have an MRI head scan just to be sure. “. A scan I might say which revealed no nasties and which took place at 5pm on a Sunday evening .Who says our NHS is not brilliant, and I told them so!

3 thoughts about being vulnerable.

First. All my life, arrogantly I’ve always thought of myself as immortal! The truth of course is that I am nothing of the kind. Aged now 84 I have reached that point when bits drop off, my balance is suspect, I grow weary more quickly and no longer have the energy of a mountain goat. And it hurts. It hurts to be told “Learn to be sensible, to pace yourself and to slow down.” Remember you are dust “ says the priest at the Ashing Service on Ash Wednesday “and to dust you will return. “ Words reflected at the committal in every funeral .

There comes a time when I guess each one of us needs to remember our mortality. That health is a precious but temporary gift for which to be grateful. Like sand in an hour glass the passage of time reminds us that not even wrinkly old bishops are immortal!

Second.

Perhaps this is just one reason why in this life we all need one another. The love and support of family and friends - the wider community too. Our Lord’s parable of the Good Samaritan gets it spot on. Nobody in this world is beyond the reach of other people’s compassion and kindness. Nationally of course we look to politicians to support in our name the homeless and starving. But it is our privilege to do our bit too. To keep a discreet but watchful eye on those we love and all around. Indeed for me this the “ Stuff “ of the Gospel. Doing our best in Christ’s name to be there for those we love or for whom we have it in our power to care. In our community I believe many of you are simply brilliant at this. Doing for others what you hope they might do for you

My own daily slot at 7.30 each morning has for years now become the most powerful focus of my ministry. Remembering quietly before God the 120 people for whom I have a special love and care. Each one on that list knows that I am there for them. Many in their own way are there for me too. Just one way in which we can help carry each other’s burdens.

Last. There’s the God bit .

As I thought about my own vulnerability, I thought how the God I have come to know so often chose in His Life amongst us to make Himself vulnerable too. Born in a stable. A refugee in Egypt. So often His Ministry was so often about being ridiculed or reviled. Constantly a victim of hate and exhaustion He ended His life ended on a cross - arguably the most painful form of execution.

So it is that if at times we feel vulnerable or just a bit afraid, I believe Our Lord says to each one of us. “I know personally about these things. If currently life is hard for you only remember that whatever may be happening to you has already happened to me , and as my Father in Heaven saw me through ,so I will also see you through too. Underneath are the everlasting arms”

So easily said, but for me true.

Favourite quote from my Daily Office book .....

“Do not be afraid., for I have called you by name and you are mine.

If you pass through the waters I will be with you.

If you walk through fire you shall not be burned.

For I am the Lord your God. I have called you by name. You are mine “. ( Is. 43. 1- 2.)

It is this belief that helps to sustain me as increasingly I grow more frail.

The knowledge that not only am I buoyed up by those who love me but by God Himself who so often seems to say “ It. Is I . . Be not afraid. Trust me “

Bishop John

...And by the way should you be interested Mr Bell is now on his way out even if occasionally he reminds me that for a week or too he has chosen temporarily to leave his sponge bag in the Hall!

January 2022-----**BENEFICE NEWS**-----January 2022

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 6.30 pm St Mary's, Stapleton Burns Supper and Celidh** at Stapleton Public Hall. With Border Reivers Ceilidh Band. A feast of haggis (veggie option available), neeps, tatties, puddings, a nip o'whisky , all followed by a twirl or two on the dance floor with the Bborder Reivers Ceillidh Band, a caller, bar and drawing (donations gratefully accepted) £15 per head. Booking essential all enquiries to [info@stmarysinstapleton@gmail.com](mailto:info@stmarysinstapleton@gmail.com) or 016977 48833. Please come along and help us raise much needed funds for urgent essential repairs to St Mary's Church.

**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.

**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.

**Shankhill C of E School Nursery** education for children, free for children aged 3 plus Mon-Fri 9-12 noon with option to stay for lunch & play until 1pm 01228 577264 [office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk).

**Shankhill Parent & Toddler Group every Wed 1:30 – 3:30pm** during term time. 01228 577264.

Shankhill PTA collects printer cartridges. leave donations at School during term time or phone 01228 577264

**Bewcastle Primary School Play Group** at Bewcastle School, Roadhead, Cumbria, CA6 6PF. Every Monday during term time 9.30am – 11am. From children aged 0– 4 years along with parents/carers, are welcome to come along and join in the fun! £1 per child. For more information contact Emma at Bewcastle School on 016977 48662 or [admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk)

**Bewcastle Scouts** Contact. Simon Barrett 01228 497970 or David Harding 07935172942  
[bewcastlescouts@gmail.com](mailto:bewcastlescouts@gmail.com)

**Please see over for details of the Border Fund** which offers grants to support disadvantaged individuals and groups in Cumbria. Priority will be given to those in the rural areas northeast of Carlisle, including north and east of Longtown.

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](http://www.Bewcastle.com/news-events), [www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice](http://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice)

Deadline for the February 2022 issue is 1pm on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or [triciacoombe@damhead.me](mailto:triciacoombe@damhead.me)

# The Border Fund

## Overview

Grants to support disadvantaged individuals and groups in Cumbria. Priority will be given to those in the rural areas northeast of Carlisle, including north and east of Longtown, and through to Gilsland and Newbiggin.

## Donor

Anonymous

## Who can apply?

- charitable, not-for-profit organisations
- individuals

## Priority will be given to projects that:

- increase personal skills
- increase independence
- support individuals and communities in rural areas
- support groups helping people to build long-term skills
- support disadvantaged individuals over the age of 25 who wish to change career
- support mental health

## Examples of projects the donor would like to support:

- groups supporting adults with homelessness, hearing loss, domestic violence, or other significant life events
- groups providing training to build skills and confidence to disadvantaged adults over the age of 25
- mature students seeking a career change or wishing to undertake a professional qualification or work-based education
- hardship costs which enable the completion of studies or a course

## What the Fund will not support in addition to our normal exclusions:

- core costs
- gap-year funding
- Construction Industry Training Board or other role-specific professional qualifications

## How much can you apply for?

Grants will normally be between £500 – £2,000; however, there is no minimum or maximum award amount. Please contact Ellen Clements if you would like to apply for a larger grant.

For more information, please contact Ellen Clements, Senior Grants and programmes officer:

[ellen@cumbriafoundation.org](mailto:ellen@cumbriafoundation.org) or 01900 820824