

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

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

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Church Services for February

	Bewcastle	Hethersgill	Kirklington	Stapleton
6th February 4th Sun before Lent				10 am Morning Prayer
13th February 3rd Sun before Lent			10 am Holy Communion	
20th February 2nd Sun before Lent	6 pm Evening Prayer			
27th February Next Sun before Lent		10 am Holy Communion		
2nd March Ash Wednesday				7 pm Holy Communion with Imposition of ashes
6th March Lent 1				10 am Morning Prayer

From the Registers

Burial of Ashes: Alexander Irvine Smith (82) of Westwind, Smithfield, at St Cuthbert's Kirklington on Sunday 16th January 2022

Other Church Dates

Tuesday, 1st February, Archdeacon's Visitation of the churches

Monday, 14th February, 7pm, Bewcastle PCC, Kilnstown

Sunday, 20th February, 9am-1pm, Big Breakfast, Hethersgill Hall

Monday, 21st February, 7pm, Stapleton PCC, Stapleton Hall

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

Services first Sunday in month 2.15pm

Donations for the costs of the Newsletter would be appreciated from anyone receiving a copy. It is no longer possible to pay by cheque, so please pass any cash donations to your distributor or to a member of the PCC

Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Dear Friends,

The end of winter is in sight. The days are growing; so too are the snowdrops, daffodils and croci. The great tits were, as usual, the first to start their spring singing in January, and the first buds are beginning to appear on the willows. Thoughts are already turning to the approaching season of lambing, and the growing world begins to colour after its winter sojourn of rest.

So far it has been a relatively mild and dry winter, although that may yet change. As I write, January has had less than a third of its normal rainfall; December's was exactly average, but only because a third of the total fell in two days at the end of the month. December was also a degree warmer than normal here, with an average daily maximum temperature of 7.0°C, despite having overnight air frosts on 15 out of the 31 days (the highest number in Cumbria), and ground frosts on 23 mornings. Last winter was very cold – January was 2 degrees colder than normal, and April and May were exceptionally cold, although they were also bright. Minimum overnight temperatures in April were on average 4 degrees lower than normal, and over 2 degrees lower in May. These heavy frosts (we recorded -7.6 °C in April and -4.3 °C in May) meant the blossom was killed on many fruit trees, resulting in a mixed harvest later in the year – some trees had no fruit while others were overladen. But then we had a very warm June, July and September, and the best honey harvest was had for many years, with some beekeepers in the benefice managing to collect over 300lbs of honey off just five hives!

Speaking of flowers, I sometimes wonder what the world looks like through a dog's nose. If we could 'see' the world of smells as a dog sees it, what would it look like? An entirely different mosaic of fascinating patterns and colours rising and drifting across the countryside, marking spots, telling tales about who or what has been where and when, all totally invisible to us (except, perhaps, at certain times of year when the mayflower and the meadowsweet are in blossom and strong enough to overcome our dull senses). This unseen world is a reality to most mammals, for whom smell plays such a vital role in marking territory, hunting prey, and sensing danger. If only we had the eyes to see, or perhaps better, the nose to smell.

It is similar with the spiritual world, where, unseen by our physical eyes, a reality exists around us that gives all life its being. Occasionally this world becomes visible, and we see the extraordinary vibrancy of life in its startling and dazzling brilliance, such as when Moses saw "the miracle of the lit bush", to quote RS Thomas. Gerard Manly Hopkins saw it as well, when he wrote "the world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil." But just because we don't see it most of the time doesn't mean it isn't there, like the world of scents. Each tree, flower, blade of grass has this 'juice' of spirit sustaining its life; each ewe and lamb, cow and calf, dog, cat, hen, bird, yes and even foxes, stouts, and moles (or mowdies as they known locally), each life created and held by God through the presence of his Holy Spirit. "Not a sparrow falls from the sky but that is known by your heavenly Father", said Jesus. That is why we can never treat animals as mere economic units, losing sight of their intrinsic value as fellow creatures, made and sustained by the same Lord that made us. But most of our farmers are only too aware of this treasure of life in their hands, and for which they are responsible: for these, calving, and especially lambing, utterly exhausting as it is, are also the happiest times of the year.

Each year brings its own surprises. Some are welcome, others are not. Last year was no exception, and neither will this year be. But through all the unexpected events and challenges, the one unchanging certainty is our Lord's presence with us through it all. Wherever we are, and whatever we face, nothing can deter his fierce love for each one of us. All we need is to open our spiritual eyes to see it, which we can begin to do through being still for a moment, and in the quietness of our soul, say the simplest of prayers: "Thank you, my Lord," or, "Please help me, my Lord. Amen"

Your friend and priest,

Robert

Saturday 5th February 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Ian Anderson

Sunday 20th February THE BIG BREAKFAST in Hethersgill Hall from 9am - 1.30pm. £7 - under 12's £3. Pay on the door. If you would like seats please contact Sandra 01228 675510 or Irene 01228 675389. All are welcome.

Easter Monday 18th April - Car Boot/Table Top Sale in Hethersgill Hall. £6 inside or £5 outside. To book a table ring 01228 675510 or 01228 675389.

Bewcastle Heritage Society - our meetings are difficult to arrange at this time, but we will meet as and when it is safe to do so. Therefore, for the present time please check with Barbara (016977-48212) or Geoff (01461-337624) about which meetings and events are going ahead.

Knit and Natter at Stapleton Hall, every Tuesday evening from 7pm-9pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. For further details contact Carol on 016975 43094.

Main@Byers_farm would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the pudding night on the 20th of November. Special thanks to all the helpers, Kirkup Butchers in Longtown for butchering the lamb and waiving the fee, to Paul Gardiner for so ably auctioneering the lamb which raised £270. We are delighted to be able to donate £1000 to the Bewcastle Church roof fund. We would also like to thank everyone who has bought cakes and treats from our honesty box over the past year, your support is very much appreciated. Neil, Margaret, Alex and Victoria.

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.

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

Bewcastle Scouts Contact. Simon Barrett 01228 497970 or David Harding 07935172942

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, www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice

Deadline for the March 2022 issue is 1pm on **Saturday 19th February** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or 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 or 01900 820824