

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

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

A: Greenholme, Bewcastle, Cumbria, CA6 6PW

T: 016977 48438 email: Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

Church Services for May

	Bewcastle	Hethersgill	Kirklington	Stapleton
1st May Easter 3		10 am HC		
8th May Easter 4			10 am HC	
15th May Easter 5				10 am Lambing service
22nd May Rogation Sunday	10 am Rogation service			
28th May	5 pm Taize/Celtic Evening Prayer at The Barn, Greenholme, Bewcastle			
29th May Easter 7			10 am Holy Baptism	
5th June Pentecost		10.30 am Service of the Word Followed by Jubilee Tree Blessing		

From the Registers

Funerals:

James ('Jimmy') Clubbs (90) of Beech Bank, Smithfield, Burial of Ashes, St Cuthbert's Kirklington, Saturday 26th March 2022

Church Notices

Lent Lunches Many thanks to all those who contributed to providing the wonderful fare for the Lent Lunches this year, and to all those who supported them. £250 was donated over the three lunches, and this has been sent to support our missionaries in Northern India working to prevent child sex-trafficking and exploitation.

On Tuesday 5th April I presented a paper entitled 'Sacramental Theology in Stone: Listening to the East Face of the Bewcastle Cross' at the 9th International Insular Arts Conference in Durham, which appeared to be well received.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Notice is hereby given for Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Election of Church Wardens for each of our three parishes as follows:

St Cuthbert Bewcastle, 7pm Monday 9th May 2022 at Bewcastle Church

St Mary Stapleton, 7pm Monday 16th May 2022 at Stapleton Church

St Cuthbert Kirklington with St Mary Hethersgill, 7pm Monday 23rd May 2022 at Hethersgill Church.

These meetings are open to the public and will be followed by PCC meetings for PCC members only. Full statutory notices will be displayed on church websites and noticeboards.

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

Services first Sunday in month 2.15pm

Friday 27th May 2 pm Bewcastle Remembrance Garden (next to Knowe Church) Opening Ceremony. Everyone welcome

Many moons ago now I met a man outside our Church here in Bewcastle who to say the least was seriously cheesed off. "The vicar's in there christening our baby and I don't understand a word of it. So I've come out for a smoke! ". We were to become firm friends.

I want to use my next three letters to explore 3 Services which we call in the trade "Occasional Offices" - Weddings, Christenings and Funerals - as through the eyes of my friend. This first one will be about Weddings. I suppose it's all to do with how you see things.

A one time senior psychiatrist at Broadmoor, Dr. Murray Cox used always to say to himself as he listened to the sad stories of those committed to his care. "What else am I seeing here? What might I be missing?" Let's apply that yardstick to Church Weddings.

You've popped the question and the girl of your dreams has said "Yes" The great day has come. Family and friends are gathered outside the Church. Ladies resplendent in colourful silk dresses and posh hats. Men in Morning Dress. Bridesmaids and pages dash about in costumes which all too soon will be covered in mud. Photographs taken, you are about to take your last steps as a bachelor as you walk to the Church door! Sacred place. Sacred words. Sacred music. Even a Vicar to match!

But why Church? Increasingly these days couples choose to get married in secular venues which of course are just as valid and probably more convenient. Often I guess it's because Nan has decreed it should be so! "We've always done things properly in our family, and your wedding will be no exception!" As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be....! It's a dilemma which I have shared with countless couples, and for me the clue lies with our psychiatrist friend Dr Murray Cox when he said "What else am I seeing her? What might I be missing? Could there be just something which marks a Church Service as different?

Opinions will differ, but for me there is one point in the service where we are given a clue. . Forget for a moment the "Givings Away. The joinings of hands. The exchange of vows and rings and all that. Focus on the very first thing that a bride and groom do together in their married life. They take 4 steps forwards to kneel at the Altar steps, to ask God for His Guidance and Blessing. It's a special, poignant powerful moment which always we discuss together before hand. One of those moments when whatever a couple's belief (or otherwise) they choose as it were slip their hands into the hand of God and say a prayer which might go a bit like this.

"Well Lord, here we are, kneeling where hundreds have knelt before us. We are not sure what (if anything) we believe about you but we have come to ask for your Blessing and Guidance. You know (but we don't) what lies ahead. .60 years of contentment and celebration? Dark days too perhaps of testing and sadness? Be with us always we ask, today and every day to show us the way and to help us to make the most of our new life together. For we shall need all the help we can get"

For me that moment lies absolutely at the heart of a Church Wedding - that extra dimension we were thinking about just now. A moment when regardless of Faith or otherwise even those who seldom attend a Church Service often say afterwards It was a moment when God seemed powerfully present, real.

It belongs to a parish priest to explore with those entrusted to His or Her care such special moments. So to try conduct or officiate at a Service that somehow God has a chance to reach, to touch and to bless those who have come to Him. To assure them that whoever they are, whatever they believe or don't, whatever luggage they bring, they are loved, and that always and everywhere from the beginning of their lives to their end always God will travel with them, until the time comes when He calls them home to Himself to love them in a new way. Such things are not easy to put into words. They just happen.

But services like weddings, Christenings and Funerals can often be moments when we just know this to be true. Last year was just one example. I was helping to marry a couple in the Cathedral, where many had gathered -including I guess a goodly number of those who would never describe themselves as "God Botherers"! In the thank you letters which arrived later apparently person after person said "That was a wonderful Service. Indeed as a result I am even considering giving God a second chance!" Nicely put but wonderful just the same!

We can never predict when God will make Himself known. But Weddings are often moments when we just know we have touched the Hem of His Garment, and in so doing know ourselves to have been richly blessed. Next time we shall think about how this can happen at Christenings

Friday 6th May 7 pm Stapleton PCC Spring Fair and Craft Fair at Stapleton Public Hall. Cake stalls, produce, plants etc. Homemade teas. Gifts for stalls and offers of help would be appreciated. Contact a member of the PCC.

Tuesday 10th May. These Are a Few of Our Favourite Sins. An evening of celebration, fun and laughter at Glingerbank, Longtown with the Musical Revue company the Fingask Follies. Tickets include a pre-show drink, buffet supper and a drink in the interval. All profits to be divided between the churches at Bewcastle (roof fund) and Kirkandrews on Esk (organ fund). For details and tickets email info@bewcastle.com

Tuesday 17th May 7 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society 2022 AGM at the Crossings Inn followed by the Annual Dinner at 7.30pm. Please give names and choice of menu to Barbara (48212) by Friday 13th May. Two courses £20, three courses £24 finishing with tea or coffee. Places are limited so it is advisable to book early!

Saturday 3rd September Stapleton & Solport Flower and Produce Show Schedules will be available from the Hall and St Mary's, Stapleton

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.

Save the Date! Stapleton & Solport Parish Council are planning a fun filled day of events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee on **Saturday 4th June** at Stapleton Public Hall. The children at Shankhill School are helping us design a poster to publicise the event to include fancy dress, a fun dog show, children's sports and games, and a bring and share afternoon tea. We are also working on a social event in the hall for the evening. We also need some volunteers who are first aiders/first responders/healthcare professionals to provide us with first aid cover - if you would like to offer your support please contact Jenny Riley.

Hethersgill Jubilee weekend celebrations in the planning We are developing plans about how we can all join in to celebrate the Queen's upcoming Platinum jubilee in June. As you may already be aware there will be a four day weekend stretching from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. Woohoo! There are a few things being planned for the village to join in the celebrations – some are still in the planning so please keep an eye out for details closer to the time:

The social committee are arranging for a chippy van to be at the Hall car park on Wednesday evening (1st June) – so if you're planning on going away for the long weekend you don't need to cook the night before!

We will be encouraging everyone to make some bunting and decorate your houses for the weekend, we'll be sharing tips and ideas as well as a template for you to use.

- Have you met the Queen? We'll be asking for your memories and pictures of any royal meetings and developing a display for the hall and online.
- We will be planting a tree for the Jubilee! As part of the Queens Green Canopy – an initiative encouraging groups all across the UK to plant a tree in the Queen's honour – we will plant a tree at the Village Hall. We hope that we will be able to arrange a blessing of the tree on the Sunday of the jubilee weekend.
- A jubilee village photo. We hope that we can arrange a village photo to mark the jubilee.
- There will also be a Jubilee beacon lit
- *Please note plans may change or be developed as we get closer to the actual weekend, we do hope that you can support us in the celebrations*

If any one has any spare furniture or household items that they are able to loan or give for furnishing a small flat in Brampton for a Ukrainian refugee family , please contact Jan Farrell on 016977 48279. The flat is small and on the first floor, so not suitable for large items. Many thanks

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

Donations towards the cost of the newsletter would be greatly appreciated as we have had some extra costs this year. Donations can be made direct to your distributor or to Tricia Coombe. Please note that we can no longer accept cheques, cash donations only. Thank you to those who have donated.

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 June 2022 issue is on Saturday 14th May to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me