

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown
 Priest-in-Charge, Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill
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Church Services for September

	Bewcastle	Hethersgill	Kirklington	Stapleton
4th September Trinity 13			10 am Holy Baptism	
11th September Trinity 14	10 am Harvest Morning Prayer			
18th September Trinity 15		10am Harvest Holy Communion		
25th September Trinity 16				10 am Harvest Morning Prayer
2nd October Trinity 17			10am HC	

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle
 18th September 2.15 pm Knowe Church Harvest Festival. All welcome

Church Notices

From the Registers

Baptisms:

Kenny David Wigham (b. 24/03/2022), at St Cuthbert Kirklington, Sunday 31st July
 Thomas Joseph Taylor (b. 28/12/2021), at St Cuthbert Kirklington, Sunday 31st July

Weddings:

Robert John Bone and Marie Elsie Urwin, at St Cuthbert Kirklington, Saturday 16th July
 Benjamin Thomas Scott and Rebecca Elizabeth Gardner, at St Mary Stapleton, Friday 29th July
 Brian James Mundell and Hannah Louise Bell, at St Mary Hethersgill, Saturday 13th August

Funerals:

Anne Oliphant (96) of Myrtle Cottage, Rackbridge; St Mary Stapleton, Friday 12th August

God for the Uncertain?

Does God exist? If there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world? How can we know anything about God? I try and lead a good life, why should I bother with church? These are some of the thorny questions I am sometimes asked. I am considering running a fortnightly series of 4 Bible study/discussion evenings called ‘God for the Uncertain’ in October/November on Wednesdays at Stapleton Hall, where we will talk about these and other issues that you raise. If you think you may be interested in attending, please could you let me know, either in person, by phone, or email by Sunday 18th September.

Apple Pressing Day, Saturday 1st October 2-4pm at Greenholme, Bewcastle. Bring your apples and some containers to take away the juice, or just come and join us for a fun and sociable afternoon, a cup of fresh apple juice, and maybe lend a hand chopping and juicing apples. Everyone welcome. There is no charge

Home Communion If anyone would like to receive communion at home because they find it difficult to attend a church service, or knows of anyone in this situation, please do get in touch with me and I will arrange a date to come round. Similarly, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit from their parish priest for whatever reason, do please let me know.

In a farming community like ours, where Death can be an every day occurrence I guess people learn to take it in their stride. Uniquely perhaps it is the death of a working dog that causes tears. It's a mind set instilled into human life too. Thus many a farmer has said to me "John, when I die I don't want a church service. A simple "Do" at the Crem will be enough followed by a decent Wake".

I quite understand that. Church Funerals can be so predictable. People waiting outside till the hearse arrives, as if to ensure that they come to say farewell to the right person! The last minute scum to find a seat! The familiar hymns, readings and prayers. A ritual relieved only when the formalities over, you can crack on in the Roadhead Hall.

Yes, I quite understand all that. Nor am I saying that a secular service is in any way inferior. For some it will be absolutely right. It's just that in this last letter of three (the other two were about Weddings and Christening) I want to suggest that often those same Church Funerals can sometimes be occasions when God seems especially present, and that those same themes which we explored before, of being loved by Him in this Life and the Life to come, can seem powerfully true.

You may remember that many a wedding couple first felt that sense of being loved by God when as husband and wife they knelt together at the altar steps to ask for his Guidance and Blessing. In the case of a Christening, maybe it was that moment when a child was handed to the priest at the Font formally to be welcomed into God's Family. Marked with a Cross – the Christian Keel Mark – and welcomed with a tiny kiss. This idea of Life as a gift from God, to be lived in His presence both in this Life and the Life to come lies at the heart of our Christian Faith. (As one farmer once put it to me "For Heifer and Heifer!")

Most of the time of course most of us seldom give God a second thought. But as Our Lord taught us even if we forget Him, He does not forget or abandon us. Always and everywhere regardless of who we are, and whatever we may have done or failed to do, He travels with us as companion and friend, until (this Life ended) He welcomes us home to share whatever we have done or been, for His Blessing or Forgiveness.

One of my favourite quotations goes like this: "Death has come . We will wrap all that we have done and hand it to God like a bad piece of knitting for His acceptance. Take it Lord we will say . This Life that you gave me to live. There have been loose ends everywhere but it was meant to be like your Son's Life a sacrifice. take it and make what you can of it. I've come to the end of the skein now. That's the Christian's Life and that's the Christian's death."

Another quotation from the Prophet Isaiah is equally trusting and positive, seeing Life as an adventure in which whilst we shall often feel lost and inadequate, God is always with us just the same, helping us to do with Him what we could never do or be on our own. "Do not be afraid, I have called you by name and you are mine. When you walk through fire you will not be burned. If you pass through water still I will be with you for I am the Lord and you are mine."

For me such words are a huge comfort, particularly as I begin to move towards my own death, or have to come to terms with the death of someone close. Life everyone else I have experienced that dramatic point in a funeral when at the Crem the curtains are drawn or in a churchyard or cemetery the coffin is lowered into the ground. It can be a moment of real angst. It makes us want to call out "Don't go! Don't leave me! I can't bear it". Indeed, well do I remember at Theological College being warned that at this point sometimes mourners rush forward to hold the coffin. The Christian Faith recognises all this. As Joyce Grenfell once wrote "Parting is Hell". But it points us too to a love which will never let us go. "Only believe and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee."

With all my doubts and unknowing (and believe you me they are many) this is the Hope to which I cling and which increasingly has become both a comfort and a guide. The conviction that will all my blots and blemishes God for ever holds me with a Love that is stronger than death. Because I believe this to be true I have no need to be afraid.

So we come to the last of these three letters. Weddings. Christening. Funerals. Rites of passage which each of us will understand in whatever way may be ours. I can only say that the older I get (and the more wrinkly too!), at every stage in our lives I believe God says to each one of us "You are my child and I love you. Do not be afraid ."Maybe these are the wistful fancies of old age but I think not. They have become convictions which ring true and give me hope and strength on my own little journey.

Bishop John

Saturday 3rd September Stapleton & Solport Parish Show in aid of St Mary's Church

This will be the 68th Annual Flower, Vegetable and Industrial Show and after a 2 year break, we hope everyone is keen to exhibit their home grown produce or a hand crafted item to demonstrate the wealth of talent and expertise in the parish. Classes range from a best single bloom to 3 hen eggs and of course in the year of the Platinum Jubilee there is a class for any article commemorating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Every entry fee goes towards raising desperately needed funds for the repairs of St Mary's Church. What easier way to help than by baking your favourite gingerbread or making a simple arrangement in an egg cup. There are many varied classes in the Children's section covering Reception to Year 6 and all children's entries are free. Even if you don't feel tempted to exhibit something, come along for a fun afternoon and buy something at the exhibits' sale after the presentations. Schedules are available from the Hall and St Mary's, Stapleton

Saturday 3rd September 7.30pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Robert Whitehead. For details contact Mary 016977 48379

Tuesday 6th September 7 pm Knit and Natter at Stapleton Hall. Everyone is welcome. For further details ring Carol on 01697543094

Saturday 10th September, 10am - 1pm : a walk around Bolton Fell Moss.

A gentle walk through the extraordinary landscape of Bolton Fell Moss, following the new boardwalk, and taking pauses for poetry and conversations about the moss - its past and future. The walk will be led by poet Harriet Fraser and photographer Rob Fraser who have been working alongside peatland restorers, soil & carbon scientists and biodiversity specialists as part of the [Moss of Many Layers](https://BFMPoetryWalk.eventbrite.co.uk) project. Please book through Eventbrite (places are limited to 20) booking link: <https://BFMPoetryWalk.eventbrite.co.uk>

Monday 12th September 7.30 pm Bewcastle Harvest Supper to be held in Roadhead Village Hall Tickets £12.50 with under 10's free. Please bring own crockery and cutlery. There will be a limited bar All welcome.

Tuesday 13th September Kirklington & District WI Talk on Carlisle City Council by John Mallinson. Competition: Pen and flower of the month

Sunday 18th September 12 noon Kirklington with Hethersgill Church Harvest Lunch will be held in Hethersgill Hall. Tickets £10 (under 10's free). To book a seat please ring Irene on 01228 675389 or Margaret on 01228 675652 or contact any PCC member. Please bring your own crockery and cutlery. Gifts of produce and homemade preserves gratefully received. All are most welcome.

Monday 19th September Bolton Fell Moss Wide Open Day

Walk on the Moss: 1.30 – 4 pm Village Hall Event 4.30 – 7 pm

An event for everyone living around Bolton Fell Moss, or with a connection to it, to celebrate the end of the project, *Moss of Many Layers*, involving Shankhill and William Howard schools, artists, University of Cumbria, contractors, and local folk with stories of Bolton Fell in its former life as a peat factory. The event will be partly on the Nature Reserve, with a walk round the new boardwalk in the afternoon (wheelchair and push chair accessible), then back to Hethersgill hall for refreshments. This will be a chance to see an exhibition of artwork, poetry and photography that has been created by local artists and the school groups, and showings of a short film that has been created. We really hope it will be of interest to plenty of people who live in the local parishes. Please book for the walk here: <https://BFM-WideOpenDay.eventbrite.co.uk>. There's no need to book for the village hall.

Details at <https://theplacecollective.org/wide-open-day/>

Tuesday 20th September 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall. An illustrated talk on The Yellow Earl by Michael Cowen

Friday 30th September 7 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper in Stapleton Public Hall. Shepherd's Pie and pudding, tea & coffee. Bar available Tickets £12 (under 12s free) in advance from 016977 48337/48833. Please bring plate, cutlery, mug. Bring & Buy table for produce and homemade preserves. All welcome

Claiming Dates

Saturday 1st October 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Roe Valley

Friday 21st October 7.30 pm Solport and Stapleton Jubilee Pie and Peas Supper and evening to share memories of the Parish Council Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

September 2022-----NEWS AND THANKS----- September 2022

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK committee will not be holding a whist drive and drawing this year but will be delivering donation letters in the area as usual this October. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so via any committee member or Gary Phillips. We would like to thank everyone that supports our efforts and if anyone would like to join the committee they would be very welcome and can contact Kathleen Hogg 01697748210 or Carol Moscrop 01697748604

Hethersgill Singing Group meet on a Tuesday at 7 pm at the chapel by the crossroads. Come along and find out how to really enjoy singing or call Sian 07932390864

Yoga in Hethersgill Parish Hall 6 pm every Thursday

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

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

Brampton and Fellside Repair Café. This is a new initiative to promote repair as an alternative to simply throwing things out. We will be hosting regular Repair Café sessions at the Community Centre in Brampton beginning on Saturday 27 August and later at satellite venues along the Fellside like the Hallbankgate Hub. We would love to hear from any 'repairer' who enjoys 'mending stuff and sharing knowledge' about ordinary household goods and we are also recruiting people to serve tea, coffee and cakes. Interested? Email Heather heather.tipler@gmail.com or chat to her on 016977 2849 or 07871 403787 or Gary gaz2676@hotmail.co.uk or 07554 265299 to find out more.

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 October 2022 issue is **Saturday 17th September** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me