

January 2023 ----- **BENEFICE NEWS** ----- January 2023

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:

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
01-Jan-23	Christmas 2			10am HC	
08-Jan-23	Baptism of Christ	6pm HC			
15-Jan-23	Epiphany 2				10am Holy Baptism
22-Jan-23	Epiphany 3		10am HC		
29-Jan-23	4th before Lent			10am HC	
05-Feb-23	3rd before Lent	10am HC			

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle
2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image, and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ; grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

From the Registers

Funerals:

Charlton Graham Noble (88), of West Acres, Kirklington, formerly of Demesne, Bewcastle, at Carlisle Crematorium, Friday 25th November 2022.

Richard Christopher King Alcock (88), of Craiggy Ford, Arthur Seat, at Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Church, Carlisle, 2nd December 2022

Roger Michael Leach (73), of Whintingstown, Roadhead, at St Cuthbert Bewcastle, Monday 5th December 2022.

Correction to last month's notice:

Gladys Elizabeth Bouch (95), formerly of Lea Brae and Lodge Hill, Hethersgill, at St Mary Hethersgill, Friday 18th November 2022.

Monday 23rd January, 7pm, Kirklington and Hethersgill PCC at Westwinds, Smithfield.

Monday 30th January, 7pm, Bewcastle PCC at Kilnstown, Bewcastle

Advanced notice for **United Benefice PCCs** joint meeting, **Monday 27th February**, 7pm at Stapleton Hall

In Search of the Mystery of God – Sermon Podcasts. A selection of Bewcastle benefice Sunday sermons (10-15 mins) exploring how to make sense of God in our lives. Some may find them helpful, particularly those who find themselves unable to get to church for whatever reason.

Available on the Bewcastle House of Prayer website at

<https://www.bewcastlehouseofprayer.org.uk/in-search-of-the-mystery-of-god/>. Also available on Spotify - just search for "In search of the mystery of God" "

Celtic Morning Prayer. A series of 15-20 minute videos to help with anyone wanting to deepen their prayer-life. This series focusses on the life of St Cuthbert, our local Anglo-Saxon saint who was bishop in this area in the late 600s, and to whom both Kirklington and Bewcastle churches are dedicated. They are available on the Bewcastle House of Prayer website at

<https://www.bewcastlehouseofprayer.org.uk/daily-prayer/morning-prayer-with-st-cuthbert/>.

70 years ago when teenage blood ran thick in my veins, I remember a preacher speaking about the 3 words which St. Peter yelled at Jesus as he felt himself sinking beneath the waves. "Lord save me".

"You may find those words come in handy" he said "when you next find yourself tempted". He was right!

Such phrases are often called Arrow Prayers "- spontaneous sharings with God as the day unfolds and I use them all the time. Other such phrases might be "Lord into your hands I commend my spirit" "Thank you" "Lord be with him or her" "Lord give me your strength, wisdom guidance".

Thus every morning (when these days I no longer leap but lever myself out of bed) invariably I pray "Into your hands I commend my spirit." Likewise each night as I snuggle under the duvet.

A simple commendation into God's care. As the old hymn puts it "Forever with the Lord"

THANK YOU is another constant example. Before every meal (even breakfast!). But a natural response too to so many happy events during the day. The love of those specially close to me. The smell of marmalade cooking. Or the sight of our two dogs chasing each other at high speed. Not least a welcome dram!

On an entirely different note the words "Lord be with him or her". Maybe it's seeing someone struggling to cross the road with sticks and poor balance. Someone leaving the Doctor's surgery with an obviously heavy heart. A young person lying in a shop doorway where they have spent the night.

Time was when my response to such things would have been to stare. These days I hope I have learned to respond differently. Unknown to them someone has seen them and wrapped them briefly in prayer.

So to the 3 words "Lord help me".

I have reached that age when I now know I am getting weaker. Increasingly I grow weary and little brown spots are beginning to appear on the back of my hands! All those invitations to speak, to preside, to listen. to love and to care which have been the joy and essence of my life's ministry are still precious, but they come at a cost.

So it is that whenever they arrive (and not least in their execution) invariably I find myself using those 3 words "Lord help me". As it were slipping my hand into his, asking Him to help me to do with Him what I could never do on my own.

It's NOT of course that in my dotage I have become some sort of religious nut. Simply that over the years I have discovered that everything I do is a shared experience, an adventure lived in and for Our Lord.

I end with a story and a prayer. It was said of Cardinal Basil Hume (whom it was my privilege briefly to come to know) that whenever he entered a room he seemed to bring Christ with him. And I remember thinking at the time it was true. Such experiences are not unique to cardinals or clerics. They belong to anyone who tries to share their lives with God.

There's a familiar prayer which for me gets this spot on, and it goes like this.

God be in my head and in my understanding .
God be in my eyes and in my looking
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and at my departing

Maybe such words are as good a New Year's Resolution as any if we're looking for one.

With my love and prayers, and thank you for your kindness, friendship and patience during the 20 years we have now lived amongst you. We count ourselves fortunate indeed.

Bishop John

January 2023-----**BENEFICE NEWS**-----*January 2023*

Thursday 29th & Friday 30th December 2 pm & 7 pm Brampton Community Theatre Christmas Pantomime “Beauty and the Beast” at Brampton Community Centre, Union Lane. Tickets £7 (£5 under 5s and over 65s) available from Community Centre, Off The Wall Café and trybooking.com/BZMR

Saturday 7th January 7.30pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Robbie and John. For details contact Mary 016977 48379

Monday 9th January 7.30-9/9.30 pm Line Dancing Classes Stapleton Public Hall. All welcome, any ability, come and have some fun! Please contact Ann Robb to express your interest and find out more details on [07855 919368](tel:07855919368).

Tuesday 10th January Kirklington & District WI Member’s Afternoon. Competition: Christmas Card and flower of the month

Tuesday 17th January 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall. Programme planning meeting. All ideas welcomed with contact details.

Wednesday 25th January 8 pm Coronation Event Planning Meeting at Stapleton Public Hall. Everyone welcome to come and share ideas for how to celebrate the Coronation.

Saturday 28th January 7 pm Burns Night Supper at Stapleton Public Hall. .Come and banish the January blues at a supper with a light touch of Burns to help the PCC raise funds for the roof repairs. Tickets £12 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky. Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322 or Tricia 016977 48833. Please bring plate, glass and cutlery.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 4th February Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Denis Westmorland

Every Monday 7.30 pm Line Dancing Classes at Stapleton Public Hall. Details Ann Robb 07855 919368

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

Every Thursday 8 pm Stapleton Carpet Bowling at Stapleton Public Hall

Yoga in Hethersgill Parish Hall 6 pm every Thursday

January 2023-----NEWS AND THANKS----- January 2023

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

Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC would like to thank everyone for their help with the grass cutting at St. Cuthbert's, Kirklington. It is very much appreciated and we hope you will 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 February 2023 issue is **Saturday 14th January** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me