

March 2023-----BENEFICE NEWS----- March 2023

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown
 Priest-in-Charge, Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill
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| Date | Sunday | Bewcastle | Stapleton | Hethersgill | Kirklington |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 5 th March | Lent 2 | 6 pm EP | | | |
| 12 th March | Lent 3 | | | | 10 am MP |
| 19 th March | Mothering Sunday | | 10 am Mothering Service | | |
| 26 th March | Lent 5 | | | 10 am MP | |
| 2 nd April | Palm Sunday | 10 am Service of the Word | | | |
| 7 th April | Good Friday | 2 pm Lanercost | | | |
| 9 th April | Easter | 6 am Sunrise Service | 10 am HC | | |

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle
 2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Church Notices

Celtic Daily Prayer through Lent. Lent is 46 days long from Ash Wednesday to Black Saturday. I have produced a set of 46 daily prayer podcasts using Celtic prayers, each lasting 15-20 minutes, that can be used to start each day through Lent. Together we read through the entire Gospel of St Luke, and the Life of St Cuthbert (as told by the Venerable Bede), our local northern saint to whom two of our churches are dedicated (Bewcastle and Kirklington). If you would like to receive them as a daily podcast, please go to the www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk website and sign up for them there. Alternatively, you can access them on the website at any time: [_\(https://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/daily-prayer/morning-prayer-with-st-cuthbert/\)](https://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/daily-prayer/morning-prayer-with-st-cuthbert/).

Change of Venue - Monday 27th February, United Benefice PCCs joint meeting for all PCC members, 7pm at Kirklington Church

Monday 3rd April, 6.30pm, Taizé Service at Gilsland church. This is likely the last service at Gilsland church. Please consider coming to support them at this peaceful, reflective service.

Lent Talks Early Christianity in North Cumbria at the Community Hall, Longtown

Sheena Boddington from Lancaster University will reveal how the Christian faith came to north Britain under roman occupation before flowering in the Celtic period in the lives of our great North British and Irish saints

- Wednesday 1st March 2 pm** Christianity in late Roman and early Celtic Cumbria
- Wednesday 8th March 2 pm** St Patrick
- Wednesday 15th March 2 pm** St Kentigern
- Wednesday 22nd March 2 pm** St Aidan

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In January and February I fell off my perch . (And before we go any further thank you to 2 local farming friends who on hearing the news said immediately. I'd never been on it in the first place!) Details are irrelevant. Enough to say that for the first time in my life I came to realise that I am not immortal, still less the episcopal answer to the Green Goddess!)

Like everybody else - just dependent on that web of relationships of family, friends, neighbours and colleagues through which we love and care for one another, giving and receiving, listening and sharing - in good times and in bad. As John Donne once put it "No man is an island "

In this letter I want to share something of that experience. Maybe you have never fallen off your perch. In which case lucky you! But if you have, you will know only too well what it can mean. In the case of ill health all those wonderfully skilled men and women in our National Health Service. Just there to do their best in time of need - and brilliantly. But families too. Those we love who in time of need instinctively drop all their usual busyness just to be with you - whatever the cost or inconvenience. Not to mention the raft of neighbours and friends, which is such a powerful force round here.

And you know what? I didn't find it easy. Of course I was grateful beyond words for all who loved and cared so brilliantly. Ambulance crews. Hospital staff whom I watched coming on duty, leaving 12 hours later - frankly knackered. Nearest and dearest - simply taking it for granted that in time of need they would be there with me. But it was a steep learning curve.

All my life I suppose loving and caring has been an integral part of my priestly life. And I like to think I am quite good at it. The hands on stuff of being with those for whom I have a special love and care. Listening. Sharing. Praying. . Remembering that the most important of the 3 rules of visiting - Get in, Get on, Get out - is GET OUT! Not so easy when the tables are reversed, and you find yourself on the receiving end.

I once had an elderly and very wise grandmother with whom I sometimes went to stay. It was she who gave me my first glass of cider , and I remember thinking as I drank it " My! This is good . I've never felt like this before"! She was also unfailingly generous, often giving me a little " something" " to spend in any way I chose. . Every time she did so I tried politely to say " You are very kind but I don't deserve it " To which she would reply. " Take it darling. As you will discover later in life it's often more difficult to accept a gift graciously than to give it " .

And that's just it. We love to give and to be kind to those around us - It's just that it's not so easy when the tables are turned and people are kind back to us. Most of us like to preserve our privacy and our independence! Deeply engrained too is a sense that we can cope. That we don't want to make a fuss. Or be a nuisance. In any case most of the time we bounce back right as rain, as if to say "See! Here I am back on my perch! " But deep down, particularly perhaps if we really weren't very well and needed those life lines through which we re-gained our health, how good to remember that always and everywhere we are part of a pilgrim people who are there for each other. Not nosily, or intrusively,- but may be just from a distance offering love, support, encouragement and prayer.

I've just finished reading an article in Today's Times, in a column called Credo. It's a Saturday special which shares insights of all faiths and of none. This particular article was written by a one time parish priest (now an Archdeacon!) who used to work in a " sink estate " in Oldham . He describes visiting a young woman whose husband was dying of cancer. Every week he visited him and after he died the widow said to him. " I'm glad you are my vicar. I didn't want my husband to be buried by a stranger " .

You don't have to be a person of Faith to appreciate those invisible bonds which link us together as friends, and through which we can both give and receive that love and support which all of us sometimes need . It's a lesson which I have come to recognise in a new way during these last two months and I wanted to share it.

..... And just for the record I hope to be back on my perch towards the beginning of March!

Bishop John

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Saturday 25th February 11 am – 2 pm Table Top/Jumble Sale at Stapleton Public Hall. Contact Jenny 01228 675713 to book a table and for more details

Wednesday 1st March at 12 noon Bewcastle School Community Lunch at school. Come along to enjoy a roast beef dinner followed by apple crumble. The cost of this is £5 per adult, £2.90 per child. To book your place please contact the school on 016977 48662 or email emmalittle@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk

Friday 3rd March Fir Ends School Air Ambulance Clothing Collection. Bags can be dropped off from the afternoon of Wednesday 1st March. They accept clothing, towels, bedding, curtains, bags and belts. No duvets or pillows. Details 01228 675283.

Saturday 4th March 7.30pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Robert Whitehead . For details contact Mary 016977 48379

Wednesday 8th March 7.30 pm Stapleton WI meeting at Stapleton Public Hall

Tuesday 14th March Kirklington & District WI Talk by Emma Brocklebank.

Tuesday 21st March 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Bolton Fell Moss Today: an illustrated talk by Emma Austin in Roadhead Hall. All welcome - £3.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 1st April Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Ian Anderson

Thursday 6th – Monday 10th April 10 am – 5 pm Easter Craft Fair at Dacre Hall, Lanercost.

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Friday 7th April (Good Friday) Easter Eggstravaganza at Stapleton Hall. Family fun day all welcome.

Saturday 8th April (Easter Saturday) Live Music “No Band Required” at Stapleton Public Hall

Fri 26th – Sun 28th May Forgotten Lands Festival at Stones Barn. Tickets and more details at www.forgottenlands.org

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

Every Thursday 6 pm Yoga in Hethersgill Parish Hall

March 2023-----NEWS AND THANKS-----March 2023

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/>.

Bewcastle Parish Council A vacancy has arisen for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council. The successful candidate will have an interest in community affairs, be literate and competent in computer skills. Some accountancy knowledge essential. Remuneration for approximately 2hrs per week as per the nationally agreed scales at SCP9 £12.06 per hour
Applications to Mrs B. Smith – Chairman

New bank account for Stapleton church. The new account for St Mary's is now open, and benefits from free banking. It looks as if there have been a few instances where problems switching standing orders over to the new account have arisen. If there is any difficulty, do please contact Sarah McNeill or Tricia Coombe and we will be happy to check that details are correct. May we take this opportunity to say thank you for every contribution. Each and every one makes a difference - and we are very grateful.

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

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK committee would like to thank everyone who donated so generously in 2022 .The incredible sum of £4612.75 has been raised, this includes donations kindly made from family and friends in memory of Gordon Brown, Addie Carruthers and Andy Gass. Also received were donations from Isabell Coulthard's birthday party, Byres Farm pancake day, Mr Bouch and Mr & Mrs McKie. Without the support of the community this wouldn't be possible, sadly cancer can and does affect us all. Your donations will help fund vital work and help fight cancer.

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.

Bewcastle School Nursery – Nursery places available for children aged 3 plus. Monday – Friday 9-12 noon, with the option to stay for lunch until 1pm. For further information please call 016977 48662 or email admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk

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 April 2023 issue is **Saturday 18th March** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me