

April 2023-----BENEFICE NEWS----- April 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
2 nd April	Palm Sunday	10 am Service of the Word			
7 th April	Good Friday	2 pm Deanery Service at Lanercost Priory			
9 th April	Easter Sunday	6 am Sunrise Service	10 am HC		
16 th April	Easter 2				10 am Holy Baptism
23 rd April	Easter 3	10 am HC			
30 th April	Easter 4			10 am HC	
7 th May	Easter 5		10 am HC		

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle
2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

From the Registers

Kathleen MaryStobart Interment of Ashes at St Mary, Stapleton on Thursday 26th January 2023

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/).

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 under Podcasts, or at <https://www.bewcastlehouseofprayer.org.uk/in-search-of-the-mystery-of-god/>.

Free will writing is being offered as part of the Diocesan Legacy Week. It is an online service provided by Farewill, and will be available from Monday 6 March until the end of Legacy Week (Sunday 23 April to Sunday 30 April). There is no obligation at all for any will made using this service to include a gift to the church. Access to the service, and further details, can be found via this link <https://www.carlisediocese.org.uk/stewardship-and-planned-giving/farewill/>

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.

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Dear Friends,

Lambing Time. This exhausting, exhilarating, seemingly endless period of tiring days and wakeful nights. Blood, afterbirth, mucus, straw. Byres full of lambs crying and ewes softly bleating. Everything throughout the rest of the year finds its fulfilment in these weeks. They are the climax of the farming year.

But not everyone involved in the lambing enjoys working with sheep. It seems to me that generally, there are two types of farmer – those who love working with stock; and those who would rather be working with tractors and machinery. The first tend to have no interest in machinery, other than as a necessary tool to get a job done, but delight in caring for and working with the animals, understanding their behaviour and learning their idiosyncrasies. The second tend to find animals a lot of unpredictable trouble, and would rather spend their time on something logical and practical that they can understand and fix. Of course there are some who understand and enjoy both. Then again, there are others who enjoy neither and struggle with the daily grind.

And then there are the rest of us who aren't farmers, but who live among them, seeing the fruit of their work as they manage the land around us. We see the first crop of lambs released out into the fields and, whether farmer or no, it fills us with joy to see the young ones springing up into the air, or racing round the outside of the field. They remind us that life can be good, and that we, too, were once young and full of energy!

I guess it's time I said something about God. After all, it is Easter and this is the parish letter! Trouble is that a lot of people turn off when they think the 'religious bit' is coming. 'No, I wouldn't call myself religious' is the almost universal response when I talk to young parents and prospective godparents wanting their new child baptized. And it's the same with most older folk as well, especially men. It's not so much that we don't believe in God, just that we don't 'know', and it all seems pretty irrelevant to daily living anyway.

Which is strange, really, when you think about it. I mean almost everyone believes in 'love' and 'caring' for someone dear to you. Most people believe in honesty and integrity, and are kind towards others. But all these characteristics are just reflections of the One who made us. They don't come from anywhere else. Certainly not from any theory of 'natural selection' and 'survival of the fittest'. No, they are traits in every human heart and are derived from, and dependent upon, the one who created us. And in our hearts we all believe in them, recognising them as good and properly human. Just as we do the joy we feel when we see a field full of lambs.

It's just our heads that get in the way. We aren't very good at thinking things through properly. If we did, we'd see, very straightforwardly, that we're all 'religious' deep down inside. Even the most stubbornly grumpy of us! We do really believe in goodness.

So, yes, I am going to talk about God, because, actually, I believe in every one being made in God's image. I believe in each one of you, that kindness and love reside in the depths of your heart. Our struggle, then, is to allow that kindness and love to always govern the way we behave and the decisions we make. Church is just the place we come to admit we screw it up, say sorry to God, and ask for his help in trying again.

But, for some, that does mean overcoming our pride. That pride that says we are ok and we don't need to say sorry, or need any help from anyone. That would be to show weakness, and we can't do that, can we. What might other people think?

And that's how we come to Easter. Because it was exactly that pride that nailed Jesus to the cross. 'Who do you think you are to show us how we should live?' And the nails are driven home. But his arms remain open wide in welcome to all who will come. So come. Even if it means sneaking in the back of the church when no-one's looking. This is Easter – the day of New Beginning. Try the outdoor sunrise service at 6am!

Your Friend and Priest,

Robert.

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Saturday 1st April 1.30 pm Come and Sing Day in Lanercost Priory. 'Come and Sing' 10 well loved oratorio choruses with the Solway Singers in Lanercost Priory. Rehearsal starts 1.30pm and performed at 6pm. Tickets (including scores) £20 for the day. Email solwaysingerscns@btinternet.com to register. More details at www.solwaysingers.org/come-and-sing

Saturday 1st April 7.30pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Ian Anderson . For details contact Mary 016977 48379

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

Admission £1, children free. Refreshments. Details 016977 72538

Friday 7th April (Good Friday) 10 am – 3 pm Easter Eggs-travaganza at Stapleton Hall. Family fun day all welcome. Easter egg hunt, Temon Farm Treat Box, Bouncy castle and soft play. Face painting and more. £5 per family. Refreshments, raffle, tombola.

Saturday 8th April 7.30 pm (Easter Saturday) Live Music “Tempest” at Stapleton Public Hall

Kirkup's Fish and chips will be in the hall car park from 5-8pm. The hall will be open and the bar available from 5pm. Then join us for live music with “Tempest” from 7.30pm till late. You don't have to stay for the live music to enjoy the fish & chips.

Tuesday 11th April Kirklington & District WI AGM

Wednesday 12th April 7.30 pm Stapleton WI meeting at Stapleton Public Hall. Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Bath. Competition: a pretty towel.

Tuesday 18th April 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society: The Reverend Hardy DSO, VC. An illustrated talk by John Horne. At Roadhead Hall

Claiming Dates

Hethersgill Parish Coronation events

Bunting packs will be available on Sunday 30th April for people to pick up from the Hall

Monday 1st May The Hethersgill Big Royal Scarecrow competition opens

Friday 5th May 5pm: Royal Exhibition at the hall, open until Monday 8th, 1-4 pm

8pm: The Film Club: The Kings Speech. Refreshments provided or bring your own

Sunday 7th May 12 noon: Join us for the Big Parish Picnic and Play! Bring your own picnic and join in with some old school games. There'll also be an all day football game and an egg throwing game – just for fun! A prize dog show , Themed Children's fancy dress and voting for the Hethersgill Scarecrow competition! **4pm** Parish Photo

Stapleton and Solport Coronation Community Funday Sunday 7th May 12.30 at Stapleton Public Hall. Kid's Fancy dress Theme “Be Imaginative”, Dog Show, Children's sports & games, Scarecrow Competition “Be Imaginative” judged at the hall. 1st place £50 voucher for the Crossings Inn. **3 pm** Community photo. **4 pm** Bring and Share afternoon tea. **7.30 – 8.30 pm** Hallsford Burger Bar. **7.30 till late** Live band The Rukus

Bewcastle Parish Council are holding a Complimentary BBQ for all Parishioners on Monday 8th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. 12 noon – 3 pm in Roadhead Hall. Catering by Lost Chef, please bring your own cutlery, drinks and a beaker for tea or coffee.

Friday 26th May 7 pm Stapleton PCC Spring 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.

Friday 26 and 27 May Forgotten Lands Music Festival Bewcastle . Headliners include Whapweasel, Errant Thieves, Brothers Gillespie, Burnt Horse and of course Maddy Prior herself. Week-end tickets £45 (CA6 residents only £20) Sat only tickets £35

tickettailor.com/events/forgottenlands facebook.com/forgottenlandsfestival/ www.forgottenlands.org/.

Saturday 9th September Stapleton Flower & Produce Show. Entries to the show will now be open to everyone in the Benefice. A limit of 2 entries per class, per person, Entry to Children's classes will not change, so open only to those who live within the Stapleton & Solport Parish or who attend Shankhill Primary School .The Committee are looking for any individual or business who would be able to sponsor a class. More details Carol Baxter 01228 577294. Schedules available from July.

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

Every Tuesday 11 am – 2 pm Bewcastle Warm Spot at Roadhead Hall. Free refreshments

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

Stapleton Carpet Bowling Club has finished for the season. It will start again in September.

Every Thursday 6 pm Yoga in Hethersgill Parish Hall

April 2023*-----**NEWS AND THANKS**-----*April 2023

Stapleton Public Hall is missing a number of wooden trestle tables that have been borrowed from the hall and not returned. Please contact David Baxter 01228 577247 to arrange their return. Many thanks.

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 Primary School and Nursery - places throughout school for children aged 3 - 11, free 15 & 30 hours places for children aged 3+ Mon-Fri 8.45-4.30 pm 01228 577264 office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk.
Shankhill Parent & Toddler Group every Wed 1:30 –3:20pm during term time. 01228 577264 Updates on our Facebook page
Shankhill Community Lunches - £5.50 for a homecooked two-course meal and open to everyone on some Tuesdays throughout term time (dates on Facebook) - call 01228 577264 or email office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk by 10am the Friday before to book.

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 **May 2023** issue is **Saturday 15th April** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, LyneholmeFord, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me