

September 2023-----BENEFICE NEWS----- September 2023

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

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

A: Greenholme, Bewcastle, Cumbria, CA6 6PWT: 016977 48438

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Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
3 rd Sept	Trinity 13				10 am MP
10 th Sept	Trinity 14	6 pm HC			
17 th Sept	Trinity 15			10 am Harvest	
24 th Sept	Trinity 16		10 am Harvest		
1 st Oct	Trinity 17				10 am HC

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

Lord, awaken us to your glory. Open our eyes to your presence. Open our ears to your call. Open our hearts to your love, that we may proclaim that you are among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Registers

Funerals:

Andrew Mitchinson (39) of Upper Greenhill, Kirkcambek, at St Mary, Stapleton, Saturday 19th August

David Ferguson (83) of Roweltown House, Roweltown, private cremation, August 2023

Church Notices

Sunday 10th September 12 noon Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Harvest Lunch in Hethersgill Hall. Tickets £12 (under 10's free). To book a seat 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 would be appreciated for the sale. Everyone is welcome.

Friday 29th September 6.30 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper at Stapleton Public Hall. Shepherd's Pie and pudding, tea & coffee. Bar available. Tickets £12 (under 10s free) in advance from 016977 48337/48833. Please bring plate, cutlery, mug. All welcome.

Saturday 7th October 2-4pm Apple Pressing Day 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.

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.

God for the Uncertain?

'I'm not really religious', I often hear people say. But everyone hopes. So what is that hope based on, if not a belief in something beyond us? But does God exist? And 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 **weekly** series of 4 Bible study/discussion evenings called '**God for the Uncertain**' in **November** on Tuesday evenings over a cup of tea or a glass of wine, 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 8th October.

Distraught, one of our children rang recently to say that her beloved Lurcher with whom for 11 years she had shared just everything, had come to the end of her days.

"I've had to ask the vet to call".

Those of you who have pets will know exactly how she felt.

Our whole family began grieving for a dog we all loved, and in the course of our pain someone found this poem

"If it should be that I grow weak, and pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then you must do what must be done, for this last battle must be won.
You will be sad I understand, don't let grief then stay your hand.
For this day more than all the rest your love for me must stand the test.

We've had so many happy years, what is to come can hold no tears.
You do not want me to suffer, so the time has come to let me go.
Take me where my need they'll tend, but please stay with me till the end.
Hold me firm and speak to me, until my eyes no longer see.

I know in time that you will see the kindness that you did for me.
Altho' my tail its last has waved, from pain and suffering I've been saved.
Please do not grieve, it must be you who had this painful thing to do.
We've been so close we two these years, don't let your heart hold back the tears. "

What is it about animals that moves us so?

Something maybe to do with that unspoken bond of love, loyalty and dependence through which they seem to say to us "Thank you for loving me and caring for me. Together we belong and on you I depend utterly - whatever betides."

Easy perhaps most of the time. Not so easy when hard decisions have to be made.

I believe a similar bond belongs between people too.

Throughout my priestly life I have been privileged often to share that kaleidoscope of emotions and events which belong to us all. Tears, laughter, fears forebodings - not least perhaps when our time approaches, and death looms on the horizon. How should we prepare for it.? What form it will take? And what about concerns for those we shall leave behind?

I was asked recently to write the foreword to a book about Assisted Dying which explores with wonderful honesty, courage and sensitivity the feelings of those who are approaching their end- especially those who may be facing the prospect of uncontrollable pain, and whether they would welcome professional help to bring that suffering to a close.

It's a massive subject, and certainly one beyond the scope of this letter.

But the more I thought about it, the more I found myself focussing my own thinking round the single word TRUST.

Trust in those whom we love - especially perhaps if we have arranged for them to exercise on our behalf Enduring Powers of Attorney.

Trust in that professional team who will be caring for us till the end.

But Trust in God too.

God is not getting a good press currently (Tell me !)

But for many of us still there are times when maybe He does seem specially close as Creator, Redeemer, Companion Friend. And when perhaps He does seem close, often I find He seems to say something like this.

"In the beginning I created you. Every mile you have walked I have been beside you., and together we belong always and everywhere. Just trust me. You are for ever deeply loved".

Because I believe that that promise depends not on us but on Him, I believe it rings true. . It is also one of the reasons why the closer I get to my own dying the less afraid I am to let go. For indeed as the Good Book puts it "Underneath are the everlasting arms".

Bishop John

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Saturday 2nd September 10.30 am – 3.30pm Wool Spinning Group at Roadhead Hall. All welcome: experienced spinners and those new to spinning and if you don't spin .. come and knit. Tea and coffee available, but bring lunch. There is a small charge for the Hall hire and electricity.

Saturday 2nd September 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Robert Whitehead. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

Wednesday 6th September 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall AGM. All welcome

Saturday 9th September Stapleton Flower & Produce Show 2pm 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 . More details Carol Baxter 01228 577294. Schedules available from the churches, Stapleton Hall, Roadhead Hall, Garry Phillips garage. Admission £3.

Sunday 10th September 10.30 – 2 pm Bewcastle Hub at Roadhead Hall. Come along for free tea/coffee and 'company and a good crack!' Cakes/biscuits/bacon sandwiches for sale and stalls selling local produce and crafts. All welcome, free entry.

Sunday 10th September 12 noon Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Harvest Lunch in Hethersgill Hall.

Tuesday 12th September at 7pm Knit and Natter will recommence. For further details contact Carol on 01697 543094. Everyone is welcome to join our very lively group.

Tuesday 12th September Kirklington District WI Hilary Watson: Chair Yoga. Competition: a scarf

Wednesday 13th September Stapleton WI Meeting Cranstons: Butcher & Maker. Competition: Chocolate cake

Friday 15th September Willow Weaving with Jackie, come along and make a basket. Will take approximately 5hrs. £45, Limited places. Contact Shona Taylor for more info/to book 07738004697

Tuesday 19th September 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall. The Brisco Family of Crofton Hall: an illustrate talk by Michael Cowan.

Friday 22nd September 10.30 – 1 pm MacMillan Coffee Morning at Roadhead Hall. Please come and support MacMillan and enjoy a get-together. Everyone welcome, with or without cake contributions, but they would be greatly appreciated.

Saturday 23 September from 5 pm till 6.30 pm Afternoon tea celebrating Charlie Dunn's exhibition of cartoons displayed in Bewcastle Church. You can also view the cartoons in the church anytime from now till the end of September between 10 am and 4 pm. Entry free.

Sunday 24th September 2 pm Concert with Rory McLeod, Maddy Prior and friends at Stapleton Public Hall. Tickets £10 available on the door.

Friday 29th September 6.30 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper at Stapleton Public Hall.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 7th October 2-4 pm Apple Pressing Day at Greenholme

Saturday 7th October Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Brian Griffin

Saturday 25th November Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall.

Line Dancing Classes: Every Monday 7.30 - 9 pm at Stapleton Public Hall. Ann Robb 07855 919368

Knit & Natter: Every Tuesday 7 pm at Stapleton (starting from 12th). For further details contact Carol on 01697 543094. Everyone is welcome to join our very lively group.

Stapleton Carpet Bowling Club:

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

Wool Spinning Group: first Saturday of the month 10.30 am at Roadhead Hall

September 2023-----NEWS AND THANKS-----September 2023

North & Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team of Cumbria Police have dedicated officers covering Brampton and the surrounding areas and we want to hear what we should be focusing on in the area you live.

We want to hear about what matters to you. We run community surveys for two weeks on the 6th of January, April, July and October. Every return is read, analysed and directly influences our activity for the following 3 months. You can complete the survey online. The direct link can be found on the Carlisle Police facebook/twitter page which is published on the mentioned start dates. Alternatively you can scan the QR code (which is in the attachment if you receive the newsletter by email) using your smartphone camera which will take you directly to the required form. If you do not have a smart phone you can ask a relative to assist or attend Durranshill Police station where the front counter can assist. Please follow the Carlisle Police facebook/twitter page to see regular updates about our activity and when these surveys go live.

Stapleton Public Hall can be booked or enquiries made by email bookings@stapletonpublichall.co.uk

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.

Post Office at Stapleton Public Hall on Wednesdays 1 – 2.30 pm. All usual Post Office services available, post a letter or parcel, as well as take out cash or pay in cheques.

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.

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

Little Learners are attending Bewcastle school on Monday 10th July, 1.30-2.30pm for a messy play session. All welcome, no need to book - just turn up!

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: Kirkclinton 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 2023** issue is **Saturday 16th September** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me