

# October 2023-----BENEFICE NEWS----- October 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
1st Oct	Trinity 17				10 am HC
8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Trinity 18	10 am MP			
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Trinity 19			10 am HC	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Trinity 20		10 am HC		
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Last After Trinity				10 am Holy Baptism
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	4 <sup>th</sup> Before Advent			10 am HC	

**Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle**  
2.15 pm

### Prayer for the Month

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you;  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### From the Registers

#### **Funerals:**

**Isabel Harrison** (89) of Sykehead, Hethersgill, at St Mary, Hethersgill, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**David Alan Gass** (80) of Fell View, Longrigg, at Carlisle Crematorium, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**Dorothy Lowson** (103) of Moss House, Penton, at St Mary, Stapleton, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**John Michael Priestley** (86) of Cracrop, Stapleton, at St Mary, Stapleton, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sunday 3rd December** service at Kirklington church - there will be refreshments served after the service and an opportunity to purchase preserves, cakes etc. There will also be a display of Christmas wreaths and orders will be taken for delivery at a later date.

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 8<sup>th</sup> October.

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Dear Friends,

Each morning before breakfast, whatever the weather, I go out for a walk, taking the dog, and often my binoculars. It's when I offer my Morning Prayer, using ancient prayers of the Hebrew people and the Church, and then pray for all of you, as parishioners, some by name, depending on circumstance, others more generally.

But half way through the walk I stop and be still for 10-15 minutes, just listening and watching the world around me. I look at the sky to notice the clouds, their shapes, their types, whether cirrus, cumulus, stratus, lenticular and so on, and their direction of travel. But also to appreciate their ever-shifting beauty. I listen to the sounds, of sheep bleating, cattle lowing, an occasional quad bike or tractor in the distance, but more interestingly, to which birds I can hear. It's a deliberate act to listen, to become aware of what's going on around me; to hear a robin in that tree, a wren tutting in that bush, a chiff-chaff in those woods that hasn't left for southern Africa yet, a blackbird as it starts from under a hedge and flies, low-level, across the path to the hedge on the other side. All this life going on around, an entire existence for all these wild creatures, completely independent of "the state of the British economy", or whatever other such worry that's currently making the headlines.

And oftentimes there will be a special moment. It may be the glance of a roe deer in my direction, or watching a pair of hares chasing each other for a few seconds and then washing themselves. The other day it was the sound, and then the sight, of a pair of lapwings in the field next to me, that I haven't seen all year. Sometimes it might be a flock of goldfinches twittering and flitting just along the lane. Once it was a tawny owl watching me watching it for at least two minutes, 20 metres away on a post in the woods. Whatever it is, it's a moment of unexpected serendipity, joyful surprise. In that moment I take delight as it fills me with wonder and lifts my spirit. I see it as 'my gift from God' for the day. And so, I close my eyes, let it soak in, and say 'thank you' to God for the gift of that moment. It is like drinking from a cool, clear spring on a hot, dusty day, for my soul.

The natural world is so full of wonder, 'charged', as it is, 'with the grandeur of God', to use Gerard Manley Hopkins' majestic phrase. And we know so little about it. What, for example, are the swallows chattering to each other about as they sit in rows on the telegraph wire? Sometimes there's only one swallow, and she sits alone chattering away. Is she talking to me? But I'm too ignorant to understand what she's saying. Then again, she chatters even when I'm out of sight, so to whom is she talking then? Same for that starling. He just sits atop the pole wheezing, clicking, and whistling with no one to hear him but me. To whom is he talking? Not another starling in sight. Is he just too stupid to realise, or is it just 'instinct' and he can't help it? Or is he talking to the other birds around? To the swallows, perhaps? Or the wren in the bush below? Do the creatures communicate with each other in ways about which we know nothing?

Even domesticated animals that we live with every day, cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, cats have such subtle means of perception and communication about which we are almost entirely ignorant. We know they establish unique relationships and friendships with each other, even across species. But how, for example, do these animals 'name' each other in their brains? We think in words. How do they 'think' about each other?

There was an article in the Guardian recently about a fellow called Tim Birkhead who has spent the last 52 summers on the vertical cliffs of Skomer Island, off the Pembrokeshire coast in Wales, observing the behaviour of guillemots. After all this watching and examining, there probably isn't anyone in the world who knows as much about these seabirds as him. And yet he was astonished when, in a homemade hide just a metre away from a bird incubating an egg, he heard it begin its greeting call. He scoured the horizon with his binoculars before picking up a tiny speck in the air almost 1km away. He watched, until it landed by this bird that had been calling. It had recognised its mate, where he saw just a speck.

This earth isn't ours. We are merely a part of a mysterious, extraordinary, deeply complex and interwoven whole, about most of which it appears we have very little understanding. We need to be so careful about our attitudes towards this world of creatures, especially when we introduce that most toxic element into our thinking, money. For some reason that, above all else, has the power to drive an existential chasm between us and the rest of creation, almost requiring us to consider ourselves apart from, and superior to, the whole.

Stillness, listening, becoming aware of the world around. And thanksgiving to God for the gift of sharing life and wonder with ALL other beings. This is the call of Christ.

Your friend and priest,

Robert

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**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm** Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Brian Griffin. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October Kirklington District WI** 100 years Birthday Anniversary Meal.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October Stapleton WI** Annual General Meeting. Competition: Pudding

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall.** Farming and its future in Cumbria: an illustrated talk by Peter Faulder.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October Lampshade making workshop** at Stapleton Public Hall. Contact Jenny Riley (01228 675713) if interested

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 7.30 pm live music with “High Dynamics” at Stapleton Public Hall** - hot food will be available again (lasagne, scampi, bacon/sausage rolls and chips). £5 for live music and food at extra cost.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 3.00 pm Poetry, Prose and Song at Roadhead Hall.** Everyone welcome, bring something to sing, play or recite or just come along and listen. The theme for this month is “Harvest & Nature”. Free entry but donations towards cost of venue gratefully received.. Light Refreshments.

**Claiming Dates**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November Stapleton Public Hall Dance** with Bon Accords

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 11 am – 1.30 pm Tabletop/Jumble Sale at Stapleton Public Hall.** Please contact Jenny (01228 675713) if you have jumble to donate or would like to book a table.

**Thursday 23 – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 10 am – 5 pm. Christmas Craft Fair** at Dacre Hall, Lanercost

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.** 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

## October 2023-----NEWS AND THANKS-----October 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Stapleton Public Hall** can be booked or enquiries made by email [bookings@stapletonpublichall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk)

**Little Learners are attending Bewcastle school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.Bewcastle.com/news-events), [www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice](http://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice)

Deadline for the **November 2023** issue is **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or [triciacoombe@damhead.me](mailto:triciacoombe@damhead.me)