

# November 2023-----BENEFICE NEWS----- November 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 <sup>th</sup> Nov	4 <sup>th</sup> Before Advent			10 am HC	
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance	10.55 am Remembrance			10.55am Remembrance
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Advent		10 am HC		
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christ the King	6 pm EP			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Advent				10 am HC

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

### Prayer for the Month

O Lord our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Church Notices

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October & Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm** On the last Monday of the month, folk tunes sessions at the **Black Lion, Hethersgill**. All welcome to come along and play or listen. List of tunes to ensure we have something in common to play can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall.** Stalls include cakes and preserves, tombola, raffles and competition. Offers to help or donations for stalls greatly appreciated. Contact any member of the PCC.

**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.

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I forgot to close the door of our garage for two nights .

When at last I did look in I noticed a definite splash of mud on one of the wooden crossbeams. As I was inspecting it a swallow nearly took off my nose. She had decided that this was where she would build her nest - which is exactly what she did - with a thousand extra dabs of mud.,

Her concluding masterpiece was a long piece of curly straw! And we felt honoured and chuffed that she had travelled over three thousand miles to make her home with us. In due course she laid her eggs, watched by her mate who perched on a nearby bookcase. Five babies hatched. So small at first they were invisible. But as they grew they filled the nest, looking for all the world like soldiers in their smart red, white and blue uniforms.

Two broods she reared. Each brood watched our every move - in the end responding to the little noises we made to greet them.

But now they are gone. All the way to Africa. Astonishingly, I believe, making their journey BEFORE their parents. How can they possibly know the way?

My second picture is of some of the small stones we have been collecting from the beck. Stones of every age, size and colour. Many of them Roman of course, but fossils too, embellished with tiny shells or intricate scratch marks. Some made by human hand, others by the movement of ice flows or other bigger stones. Our house is full of them. If only they could tell their stories!

Such treasures of course are a natural part of our local countryside.

But for those with eyes to see, they are more than just Nature's treasures. They are tiny masterpieces of God's creation. To be handled with wonder, even reverence.

A senior consultant at Broadmoor Hospital, Dr Murray Cox, used always to say to himself as he listened to the often sad stories of those committed to his care "What more can I see here? What might I be missing? "

His words could relate just as well to the entire world of Sir David Attenborough or Professor Brian Cox and the world of Astronomy which he shares with us. Jesus too had a similar message. "Don't just listen to my stories and parables. See what lies behind them "

So it is that for me people of faith are often not just persistent God Botherers or even regular occupants of church pews. They are those who can make the connection between the world around them and its Creator. One of my favourite quotes from Elisabeth Barrett Browning gets it exactly. "Earth's crammed with Heaven and every bush ablaze with God. But only those who see take off their shoes. The rest stand round and gather blackberries."

And often it will be that this connection is best made by those who live in the countryside. Let the last word in this letter come from George Herbert. 350 years ago he painted a picture of a country priest ringing the Church bell. On hearing it the ploughman would bring his horses to a halt, take off his hat and say a little prayer.

"Earth's crammed with Heaven". Yes, indeed! And perhaps we do well to ask God to help us too to see His presence in all around us - even in small stones and swallows. Like George Herbert's ploughman to take off our hat and worship.

Bishop John

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**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.. Refreshments.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen. List of tunes to ensure we have something in common to play can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance** with Bon Accords. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November Stapleton WI** Crafting – Christmas Gift Bags, comp: a poppy item

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November Kirklington & District WI** Visit to Archives at Gilford House.

**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.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 7 pm Pie & Peas supper and Unveiling of Parish Photo** at Stapleton Hall. Free entry, bar and raffle.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 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.

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

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 7 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Reivers Banquet** at Roadhead Hall, with Denis Westmorland and local friends. 2 course hot supper, please bring your own alcohol, crockery and cutlery. Tickets £12. Please book by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov with Barbara 016977 48212

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 am – 3.30 pm Spinning Group** at Roadhead Hall. New to spinning and experienced spinners - all very welcome. Tea and coffee available but bring lunch. There is a small charge for the Hall hire and electricity. If you don't spin.... Come and knit !

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall.** Stalls include cakes and preserves, tombola, raffles and competition. Offers to help or donations for stalls greatly appreciated. Contact any member of the PCC.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2pm Christmas Afternoon Tea in aid of Bewcastle Swimming Pool and Bewcastle School PTA** at Roadhead Hall. Adults £12, Under 12's £6. Tickets must be prebooked by contacting Joyce 016977 48338 or Bewcastle School 016977 48662

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm, folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen. List of tunes to ensure we have something in common to play can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm. Cookery Demonstration by John Crouch.** Curries, Indian Dishes and Simple Spices. With Tasters at Hethersgill Parish Hall to support hall funds. £6 including light refreshments. All welcome. Pay at the door. Enquiries Christine 07790 302016.

#### **Claiming Dates**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Stapleton Public Hall Dance** with Ian Anderson

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Ceilidh, music by Ian Anderson Band. To raise funds for Hethersgill Social Committee** at Hethersgill Parish Hall.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January Burns Night Supper Stapleton PCC** 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.

**Stapleton Carpet Bowling Club: Every Thursday 8 pm** in Stapleton Public Hall

**Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm** in Hethersgill Parish Hall

## **November 2023-----NEWS AND THANKS-----November 2023**

**Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club is restarting in January.** If you would like to enter please contact Irene, 01228 675389. £11 per year. Monthly prize draw.

**The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK** committee are delivering their annual donation letters and would like to thank everyone that supports us in our fundraising efforts. Any donations no matter how small are truly appreciated, envelopes can be left at Garry Phillips workshop, thank you.

**A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning** held in Roadhead Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> September by baking, buying, clearing, helping with competitions and attending. We cleared a terrific £267 The beautiful cake kindly donated by Margaret Maine was won by Sue MacDermid and the Crossings Voucher was won by Margaret Maine. Every Little helps!

**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)

**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 **December 2023** issue is **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or [triciacoombe@damhead.me](mailto:triciacoombe@damhead.me)