

February 2024 ----- **BENEFICE NEWS** ----- February 2024

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

email: Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
4 th Feb	2 nd Before Lent	6 pm HC			
11 th Feb	1 st before Lent				10 am HC
14 th Feb	Ash Wednesday		7 pm HC with Ashes (BCP)		
18 th Feb	1 st Sunday of Lent		10 am MP		
25 th Feb	2 nd Sunday of Lent			10 am MP	
3 rd Mar	3 rd Sunday of Lent	10 am Matins (BCP)			

HC = Holy Communion, MP = Morning Prayer, BCP Book of Common Prayer

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month – the Lenten Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Registers

Funerals:

Margaret Mary Rome (88) of Beech Lea, Easton at St Mary, Stapleton on Friday 5th January 2024

Church Notices

Friday 26th January 7 pm Stapleton PCC Burns Night Supper in Stapleton Public Hall. Supper with a light touch of Burns to help the PCC raise funds for the roof repairs. Tickets £12 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky. Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322 or Tricia 016977 48833. Please bring plate, glass and cutlery.

Monday 29th January, and 26th February, 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](http://BewcastleHouseofPrayer) website

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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Dear Friends,

'You never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with stars.'

These words, and many more like them, were written in the mid-1600s by a young man from Herefordshire called Thomas Traherne. He died at the age of 37. His writings remained undiscovered until they were found "in a barrow of books about to be trashed" in the 1890s, rescued, and, after some doubts about authorship, eventually published in 1908, some 250 years later.

'You are as prone to love, as the sun is to shine; it being the most delightful and natural employment of the Soul: without which you are dark and miserable.'

Traherne was a poet, a priest, and a scholar. He was described as "a man of a cheerful and sprightly Temper... ready to do all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability." He complained that he thought he was "too open" and had "too easy and complying a nature."

'Your enjoyment of the world is never right till you esteem every Soul so great a treasure as our Saviour doth.'

He is now recognised as one of the great 'metaphysical poets', whose number include the likes of John Donne, George Herbert, Richard Crashaw, and Henry Vaughan. These poets of the early to mid-1600s sought to write about the mystery of God's presence in the world around us, his presence in the midst of us.

'Your enjoyment of the world is never right, till every morning you awake in Heaven; see yourself in your Father's Palace; and look upon the skies, the earth, and the air as Celestial Joys: having such a reverend esteem of all, as if you were among the angels.'

Traherne, it is thought, was the eldest son of his father's third wife, the others probably having died in childbirth, many of his older siblings also having died in infancy. And so I find myself wondering how, amid such pain and sorrow, writers like Traherne could find such beauty, awe and wonder in the sad world around them.

And I wonder, too, what the world would be like if we were all able to see it in such a way, and to see the hidden beauty in each soul; to be filled with kindness and generosity towards each other and the world. Sometimes, when I'm on my morning prayer walk, I find myself pondering why people of different nations, races, religions, treat each other the way they do. Why do children grow up to carry on their parents' grudges? What are these stories we tell our children? Where does all this hatred and conflict come from?

Then, sadly, I realise its already there in each of us. However much we long for peace and equity, it seems to evade us, not just in our communities, but even in our families. 'Good fences make for good neighbours' goes the saying. But, when you think about it, that says quite a lot about the way relate to each other; borders, boundaries and 'ownership' being but one expression. For if your fences are in poor repair and your stock ends up on your neighbour's land, angry exchanges begin and relationships sour. Or when someone receives an inequitable part of the inheritance. Or a whole host of other reasons that give rise to anger, resentment, a sense of injustice or hurt, jealousy and bitterness. And that's the same seed that starts all the wars in the world.

Then I stumble across a couple of deer in the pasture, quietly grazing. They look up and see me, watch for a while, nibble some more grass, then trot away, nonchalantly leaping the fence, cross the lonning, over another fence and into another field. They are totally oblivious to these 'boundaries' that we create, have no concept of 'ownership', and care nothing for 'possessing' anything; they own nothing. And because they own nothing, the whole world is theirs and they are free. And there's the oxymoron that Treharne (and Jesus) is talking about.

I find my heart lifted when I see the deer; their grace, gentleness and their freedom. I want to learn something about beauty and our relationship with the world around us from them, and Traherne. Then, perhaps, we may find peace at last, with God, each other, and the good earth, and the Sea, itself, will flow in our veins.

Your friend and priest
Robert

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Friday 26th January 7 pm. Burns Night Supper Stapleton PCC at Stapleton Public Hall. supper with a light touch of Burns to help the PCC raise funds for the roof repairs. Tickets £12 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky. Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322 or Tricia 016977 48833. Please bring plate, glass and cutlery..

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2nd – 30th January Mary Kennedy Exhibition “Home & Away” Paintings from Hallbankgate to the Mediterranean at Hallbankgate Hub Gallery.

Saturday 3rd February 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Denis Westmorland . Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

Friday 9th February 8 pm Live Music with Adam Day from Soul Survivor at Stapleton Public Hall. £5 on the door. Bar **Please note change of date from Saturday to Friday**

Tuesday 13th February Kirklington & District WI Talk: Cycle ride to China

Wednesday 14th February Stapleton WI Hand & Nail care with Beauty Hideaway

Sunday 18th February 10.30 am – 2 pm Bewcastle Sunday Hub at Roadhead Hall. Free entry and hot drinks, bacon rolls and cakes for sale.

Tuesday 20th February at 8pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Meeting at Roadhead Hall. An illustrated talk by Michael Cowan on "My 50 years of farming ups and downs" - £3 on the door.

Saturday 24th February 9.30 – 12 noon Fairtrade Coffee Morning at the Moot Hall, Brampton. Refreshments, raffle, baking and information about the local Fairtrade group.

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Claiming Dates

Saturday 2nd March Stapleton Public Hall Dance with the Lawrie Family

Saturday 16th March 7 pm Live Music & Disco with Jason Arnup & Band at Stapleton Public Hall. £5. Bar available

Saturday 11th May Live Music with High Dynamics at Stapleton Public Hall

Line Dancing Classes: Every Monday 7.30 - 9 pm at Stapleton Public Hall. (not 4th March) 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

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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 would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts in 2023. The annual donation letters have raised £1111.00 and a further £4180.00 has been raised with the kind help from the Main family of Byers farm, Mr J Bouch, local auction companies H&H and C&D. And the children of Bewcastle school. Also kind donations made by the families in memory of their loved ones Jimmy Hope and Alan Gass. It is thanks to the incredible support of the local community that Cancer Research UK has received £5291.00 which will go towards valuable work into the fight against cancer something that unfortunately affects many families.

Stapleton Public Hall can be booked or enquiries made by email bookings@stapletonpublichall.co.uk or calling Eileen on 016977 3196.

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.

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 Primary School and Nursery – places available throughout school for children aged 3 – 11. We now offer wrap around care, 8am -5pm. For further information please call 016977 48662 or email admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk

Bewcastle Primary School Community Lunch Tuesday 19th March at 12 noon is our next Community Lunch, serving roast beef with trimmings, followed by apple crumble and custard. The cost of this is £5 per adult, £2.90 per child. All places must be booked no later than **Wednesday 13th March 2024**. To book your place please contact the school on 016977 48662 or complete the online booking form below:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=izGTMEImPE2czcYSH5jioZLCjMQWEF9OmuS60t4F_sRUMEZGtksWUU5YQU9EN1hNWjk5V00xMII1Wi4u

Bewcastle School Nursery – Nursery places available for children aged 3+, full and part time places available. For further information please call 016977 48662 or emailadmin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk

Bewcastle Primary School Play Group - at Bewcastle School, Roadhead, Cumbria, CA6 6PF. Every Monday during term time 1.30pm – 3pm. 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. 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 **March 2024** issue is **Saturday 17th February** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me