

# May 2024-----BENEFICE NEWS----- May 2024

**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> May	Easter 6	10 am HC			
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day	7.30 pm Deanery Service at All Saints, Scotby			
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Easter 7			10 am MP	
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost		10 am HC		
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Trinity				10 am Holy Baptism
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Trinity 1	6 pm EP			

HC = Holy Communion, MP = Morning Prayer, EP = Evening Prayer

**Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle**

2.15 pm

### Prayer for the Month

**Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, who on the cross through wood and nails didst work our whole salvation, wield well thy tools in this thy workshop, that we, who come to thee rough hewn, may by thy hands be fashioned to a truer beauty and a greater usefulness; for the honour of thy holy name. Amen.**

### Church Notices

**The Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)** for each parish will all take place this year in Stapleton Public Hall at the same meeting under a shared agenda. Business and voting unique to each parish will be conducted after the joint meeting, which will be addressed by Canon Tricia Rodgers, interim rector of the Brampton group of parishes, appointed by the diocese to facilitate establishing a mission community in our deanery.

Notice is hereby given for Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Election of Church Wardens for each of our three parishes as follows:

St Mary Stapleton

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 7pm at Stapleton Hall

St Cuthbert Kirklington with St Mary Hethersgill

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 7pm at Stapleton Hall

St Cuthbert Bewcastle

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 7pm at Stapleton Hall

Full statutory notices will be displayed on church websites and noticeboards where feasible.

**Funerals at the Crematorium.** I have become aware that some families in the benefice do not know that I take funerals at the crematorium even if there is no service at one of our churches. It appears that at least one Carlisle-based undertaker has not been informing bereaved families of this as an option, instead just offering them the services of an independent funeral celebrant. It has caused some consternation when families discovered that I could have taken the service. If you would like me to take a funeral service at the crematorium for someone from our parishes, please ensure you say this to the undertaker if they do not offer you the option, or alternatively, contact me directly.

**A selection of podcast sermons** can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website under the 'Podcasts' menu tab..

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.

I met a man the other day who told me that 4 years ago he had abandoned the C of E for the Roman Catholic Church. "You see" he said "they tell me what to think." We had a long and amiable discussion, in the course of which I told him that whilst I respected his decision and hoped that he would be really happy in his new spiritual home, I was interested in his reasoning.

Every day in the secular world politicians and pundits strive to find solutions to impossible problems. Gaza, Ukraine, Climate Warming, Migrants - to name but a few. Almost always there are no easy answers. All they can do is to listen and to learn from each other, to trust and to respect one another - and all within a spirit of generosity and compromise.

What goes for the secular world goes for the world of Faith too. Quite apart from the multitude of different world religions (and remember our present Prime Minister is a practising Hindu) all down the years people of Faith have brought with them (and still bring) a sad history of rivalry, competition and hostility. The truth surely is that no one Faith (let alone denomination) is uniquely "right", still less knows it all. Whatever our affiliation, all we can do is humbly to listen to and to respect one another resolving to live together amicably. Only so can religion be a force for good and not evil.

It is just here that, for me, the C of E comes into its own. For at its best, Anglicanism is not an exclusive club whose members are required to worship or even to believe in one particular way. We embrace a vast spectrum of views about subjects as potentially divisive for example as the Place of Homosexuals (my friend's presenting problem) to Women's Ministry or our different understandings of the Service of Holy Communion

Worldwide and nationally we are an open extended family where all belong, no questions asked. A family in which we are encouraged to do our best to pray for and to care for all around us. No matter whether they come to church once a year, every Sunday or never. In this country in particular the traditional Parish priest, like a naval Chaplain "is a friend to all on board."

It is for this reason that I get so cross with Christian Enthusiasts who put pressure on people "To do the right thing". To me their Gospel is a Gospel of one up man ship, and exclusion. Deliberately the Anglican Communion has a huge shallow end where people can feel they belong on their own terms. And I think this is a strength not a weakness.

I read the other day of a saintly colleague who said to his congregation "When I die, I would like to be remembered as a Christian Agnostic." I love that, because for me it holds in balance, exactly, that faith which I hold so dear, whilst reminding me that as yet there is so much I do not yet know or understand.

All I can do is to travel on as best I can - remembering that on my journey, if I am humble enough to listen, there is so much I can learn from others who may see things very differently. Perhaps most importantly it reminds me that Faith is not so much about what we believe about God, but what God believes about us.

And that is that He loves each one of us always and everywhere, whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe about Him or can't.

No need to strive to believe "all the right things". Enough to know that with all our unknowings and failings always we belong to Him and He belongs to us. And all that He longs is for us to do is to accept that love and to share it with all around us. No means test! No Qualifications! No need to believe or worship in any one particular way! For me that means just everything. And that's what I said to my friend!

Bishop John

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**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen..

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2 pm Hethersgill's Annual Picnic and Play Event.** Fun and games for all the family at the village hall. This year there will also be a free hog roast and live music.

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

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 7 pm Brampton Fairtrade Town Group and Sustainable Brampton are hosting a talk prior to the Sustainable Brampton AGM.** Fairtrade refreshments at 7.00pm followed by a talk at 7.30pm by Joe Human of Keswick Fairtrade Group and Sustainable Keswick. .Joe's talk entitled ' Coffee Brewing Crisis' will look at the impact of the climate crisis on small coffee farmers, focussing on Ethiopia, which he has visited many times, and Kenya where he lived for many years. The talk will be followed by the SB AGM at about 8.45pm If some people want to attend the talk and not the SB AGM or just the AGM, this is not a problem.

**Stapleton WI** No meeting this month as centenary celebrations planned instead.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May Bewcastle Sunday Hub** at Roadhead Hall Free entry and hot drinks. Bacon rolls and cakes for sale, craft stalls

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 7pm Bewcastle Heritage Society AGM and Dinner** at Skitby House.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 7 pm Stapleton PCC Pudding Night** at Stapleton Hall.. £10 a head, under 12s free. Come and enjoy a bowl of soup and a wonderful range of puddings, to help raise funds for the repairs to St Mary's Church. There will also be a plant stall and produce table. Any contributions very welcome.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May Forgotten Lands Festival at Stones Barn, Bewcastle.** Family friendly music festival. Concerts Friday night and all day Saturday, music/poetry workshops. Quality food, local beer, craft stalls, talks and demonstrations. Bands include Mark Chadwick (The Levellers, Maddy Prior's Forgotten Lands Band, Warehouse of Theives, Hadrian's Union and many more. Full programme on facebook.com/forgottenlandsfestival/ and [www.forgottenlands.org](http://www.forgottenlands.org). Weekend tickets £60 (£20 for CA6 residents), individual concert tickets available.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am – 4 pm Bewcastle Countryfest at Roadhead Hall.** Free entry, farming displays, local crafts demonstrations, refreshments in aid of the Knowe Church. Photo competition: best countryside/farming photo & most humorous countryside/farming photo. Email entries to [diane.sutton@sky.com](mailto:diane.sutton@sky.com) or in person. Entry £1

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 11 am – 5 pm Open Garden at Applecross, Capon Hill,** Brampton CA8 1QN Sat, by kind permission of John and Sheila Burn, entry £5. Plant stall, pop up tea room and raffle, (donations of plants welcome) In aid of Hospice at Home.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen..

**Claiming Dates**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June Stapleton Public Hall Dance** with Denis Westmorland

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June** Northumbria Wildlife Trust Exhibition 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 (not June)** For further details contact Carol on 01697 543094.

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

## **May 2024-----NEWS AND THANKS----- May 2024**

**Hethersgill Village Hall Bookings** All enquiries/bookings please contact Elsie Elliott 01228 675336 or Christine Falder 07790302016

**Hethersgill Village Hall 100 Club winners:** March: 1st (21) Willie Telfer, 2nd (42) Jamie Armstrong, 3rd (28) Philip Walton April: 1st (55) Doreen Davidson, 2nd(51) Marie Bone, 3rd (47) Ian Armstrong. Thank you for your continued support to Hethersgill village hall 100 club

**Stapleton Public Hall** can be booked or enquiries made by email [bookings@stapletonpublichall.co.uk](mailto: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** - We have places throughout school for children aged 3 - 11, with free 15 & 30 hours places for children aged 3+ Mon-Fri 8.45-3.30 pm, with the option of Breakfast Club for everyone from 08:00 to 8:45, and After-School Clubs from 3:30 to 4:30. Please call 01228 577264 or email [office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk) for more information

**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. The next date is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May so please book by 10am the Friday before by calling 01228 577264 or email [office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk)

**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](mailto:admin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk)

**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](mailto:emailadmin@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk)

**Bewcastle Primary School Play Group** at Bewcastle School, Roadhead, Cumbria, CA6 6PF. Every TUESDAY 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](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. 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 **June 2024** issue is **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeform, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or [triciacoombe@damhead.me](mailto:triciacoombe@damhead.me)