

June 2024-----BENEFICE NEWS----- June 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
2 nd June	Trinity 1	6 pm EP			
9 th June	Trinity 2			10 am HC	
16 th June	Trinity 3		10 am MP		
23 rd June	Trinity 4				10 am HC
30 th June	Trinity 5	10 am HC			
7 th July	Trinity 6			10 am MP	

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Church Notices

From the Registers: Funeral

William ('Willie') James Smith (86) of Fieldhead, Sleetbeck at St Cuthbert, Bewcastle Friday 17th May 2024

Churchyards.

Our churchyards are very special places. Unlike cemeteries, they are consecrated ground where we bury our loved ones with love, thanksgiving, prayer and the hope of resurrection. Again, unlike cemeteries, they are not public spaces, but neither are they private spaces. They are part of the church, places of stillness, quiet, respect and dignity where folk come to pray and remember, walk among our forebears, or visit past relatives from long ago. They are far older than the modern cemetery, mostly dating back hundreds of years. The way we treat these spaces is therefore very different to public cemeteries, since they are there for the benefit of the whole community of faith over the centuries, not just the individual families whose recently deceased loved ones are buried there.

It is for these reasons that the rules governing churchyards are quite different to those for cemeteries; they are based around the importance of public dignity and respect for the Church, and the whole community, over the longer term as much as the shorter term private grief of the individual family. Headstones, for example, while each is unique, are not there to draw attention to themselves or a particular individual, but to remember someone as part of the community of faith. Likewise, the use of artificial flowers is discouraged – unlike real flowers, they tend to indicate the absence of attention to a grave and quickly become unsightly for everyone else. Grave goods, mementoes and other memorabilia, again while well intentioned, do little to respect or honour the loved one and are a distraction to the equally important graves around them, and again, are not allowed.

It is very difficult to enforce these rules as, understandably, it would likely cause great distress to the families concerned if they were. However, the rules are there for the benefit of the whole community over the decades, and we don't remember our loved ones any the less by following them. It would be really helpful, therefore, if families were to respect them themselves, and ensure they are followed for the sake of everyone. In doing so, they will not only demonstrate respect for their loved one, but also for the rest of the community. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Dear Friends,

Funerals. We've all been to one. Some of us have been to several, and the older we grow, the more we will attend as family, friends, and loved ones reach the end of their sojourn among us. All are sad, some are tragic.

We do not like talking about death. We think of it as morbid, a topic to be avoided, as if by not thinking about it we can make it go away. But we all know that, as the old adage goes, "there are only two certainties in life: death and taxes!"

These events mark one of the most important times in our communities. Farming funerals, especially, are amongst the most well-attended occasions in our parishes, with numbers frequently in excess of a hundred, sometimes as many as 250-300 people. That's over 10% of the entire population of our benefice, although many at these funerals will have travelled from well outside the area. They are times when we come together to support the family, to pay our respects, and to meet folk we may not have seen for a long time. The experience of being together to share memories of times past is part of what binds us to each other, of what makes us as communities. The events and times that we have shared with the deceased have become part of our own lives, our own history, part of the fabric that makes up the story of who we are.

The sadness we feel at a funeral is a measure of the love we had for the person who has died. The greater the love, the more intense the grief. For when we love someone, they become part of us – we allow them in to our inner sanctuary, to share our fears, our longings, our joys and our sorrows. Their parting from us is, then, a ripping out from our souls, and this can be agony. We feel raw, lost, stricken, unable to see a way to live without them. Somehow we just have to get through. But it is precisely here that God meets us with his passionate and unquenchable love, just at our point of greatest pain.

The busyness of the period after the death of our loved one can, in one sense, help us through the immediate aftermath. We just have to keep going, contacting the undertaker and vicar, organising the funeral, obtaining death certificates, letting relatives and friends know, arranging the wake, getting the notice in the papers, on and on the list goes. And then there's all the cards, the phone calls, the visitors... But in some cases, there are none of these, and this can be an excruciatingly lonely time for the one left behind, especially if the deceased was a quiet person who didn't go out much and preferred the stillness of a more reclusive life. Tragic, or untimely deaths, too, can leave us feeling utterly devastated with guilt, anger, or bitterness. And here, too, God's gentle love enfolds, and comforts, takes our pain and offers us a still place of refuge.

The funeral, itself, always marks a fundamental milestone in our lives. It is here we gather, to remember, to support, and to send off. Whatever our beliefs, they are times we are brought face-to-face with our own mortality, the prospect of our own end. We listen, we pray, we sing, we cry. And we laugh. A good funeral for a life well lived always has some laughter. It is a mark of remembering what was good about someone, how they brought joy into the world. I remember one funeral I took a few years ago of someone I used to visit. He was a good age, house-bound now, but had lived a life as a Bewcastle hill shepherd with stories from a past now lost. Despite his poor health, he still had a twinkle in his blue eye and the hint of a smile on his lips as he told me his stories in response to my questions. Like many bright Bewcastlers he had passed his 11+ and gone to Keswick grammar school as a weekly boarder since there was no daily transport to attend the grammar school in Carlisle. I said to him, "you did better than me. I failed my 11+." Quick as a flash he replied "that'll be why you're a vicar, then." The whole church cracked up when I told that story at his funeral – it was just him, sharp, witty, with a mischievous grin! But it was a fitting way to remember and say good bye to someone who was dear to, and respected by many. The laughter helps heal the pain.

Our attitude towards death fundamentally, and paradoxically, shapes our attitude towards life. For until we know how to die well, that we really are safe in God's hands, we will always be trapped by our fear of it, and so unable to live well. That's why faith is so important to life.

Your friend and priest,

Robert

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

Saturday 1st June 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Bon Accords . Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

Sunday 2nd June 10 am – 2 pm Car Boot Sale at Priory Garth, Lanercost. £1 entrance. Contact Elizabeth.harding@btinternet.com 016977 2538/07969 530217 £8 pre-booked, £10 on the day

Wednesday 5th June 3 – 7 pm Bolton Fell Moss National Nature Reserve Celebration Event. Discovery trail, guided walks. Free entry

Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th June Northumbria Wildlife Trust Exhibition on Missing Lynx Project at Stapleton Public Hall. See website www.missinglynxproject.org.uk or phone 07541 286569 for times and more details. Free entry

Tuesday 11th June Kirklington & District WI Talk by Eden River Associates

Wednesday 12th June Stapleton WI

Sunday 16th June 10.30 am – 2 pm Bewcastle Sunday Hub at Roadhead Hall Free entry and hot drinks. Bacon rolls and cakes for sale, craft stalls

Sunday 16th June Bewcastle Heritage Society 11 am Discover More of Liddesdale: an easy day out with George White. Bring a packed lunch, meet at Roadhead Hall

Monday 24th June 7.30pm folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen...

Claiming Dates

Saturday 6th July Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Ian Anderson

Saturday 6th July & Sunday 7th July Bewcastle Hub on the Farm at Byers Farm. Scarecrow competition, farm walks, refreshments, crafts and local produce. Free entry

Line Dancing Classes: Every Monday 7.30 - 9 pm at Stapleton Public Hall. Ann Robb 07855 91936. Anyone who can't attend please let Ann Robb know. Thanks

Stapleton Knit and Natter Group has ceased for the Summer months and will restart at the beginning of September.

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

June 2024-----NEWS AND THANKS June 2024

Hethersgill Village Hall All enquiries/bookings please contact Elsie Elliott 01228 675336 or Christine Falder 07790 302016

Hethersgill Church: A big thankyou to everyone who helps keep Hethersgill church & church yard so lovely. If you have any spare time to help in anyway ie grass cutting/strimming/cleaning please contact Irene 01228 675 389 or Madge 01228 675568. Thankyou

Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club Winners: May 1st Mark Sisson (4), 2nd Ian Armstrong (47), 3rd Malcolm Bell (44) Thankyou for your continued support to Hethersgill parish Hall 100 club

Hethersgill Picnic and Play Event Organisers would like to sincerely thank you to all who helped and supported the Hethersgill event at the Hall. There were more than 20 fabulous scarecrows as well as expert crafts, Marmalade and Jam competition entries. Special thanks to Mark and Katie Hayton for the loan of the field, digitalmedia4u for stepping in to take our village photo, James Falder for the use of his PA equipment and providing extra entertainment on the evening, our independent judges Margaret Main and Elizabeth McDonagh and Scott Elder for providing the goal posts for the footy.

A grant from the Hallburn community windfarm fund meant we were also able to expand this year's event and book the hog roast (Kirkups – Border Hog Roast) and the Cover Girls as the main evening entertainment as well as book in the bouncy castle again.

Thanks to all the crew that helped prepare the field and all those who donated time, energy and raffle prizes. We hope to see you all again next year!

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 - 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 for more information

Shankhill Parent & Toddler Group every Wed 1:30 –3:20pm during term time. 01228 577264 Updates on our Facebook page

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 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 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

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 **July 2024** issue is **Saturday 15th June** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me