

April 2025 ----- **BENEFICE NEWS** ----- April 2025

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

Priest-in-Charge, Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill

Greenholme, Bewcastle, Cumbria, CA6 6PWT: 016977 48438

email: Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
6th Apr	Lent 5			10 am Holy Baptism	
13th April	Palm Sunday				10 am Service of the Word
18th April	Good Friday	2 pm Deanery Service at Lanercost Priory			
		4 pm Dream of the Rood			
20th April	Easter Day	6 am Sunrise Service	10 am Service of Light and Benefice Holy Communion at Stapleton		
27th April	Easter 2			10 am HC	
4th May	Easter 3	6 pm HC			

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month – the Easter Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope, for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Church Notices

Our celebration on **Easter morning** will be slightly different this year. We will begin the main service at Stapleton **outside** the church where **we light a small bonfire**, from which we then light the Easter (Paschal) Candles for each of our four churches. We will then process into the main church and everybody will receive a beeswax candle which they can then light from one of the main Paschal Candles. This is called the Service of Light and is an ancient Christian tradition. Children are very welcome. The rest of the Easter service continues in church.

Church Electoral Rolls. We are in the process of drawing up new electoral roles for each of our parishes. The Electoral Roll is the closest the Church of England has to a form of church membership. Being on the Roll means you want to support your local church and play a part in its life. Anyone living in the parish who has been baptised and is over 16 is entitled to be on the Roll, as well as others for whom a particular church is their normal place of worship. Please do sign up. You can contact Robert, the vicar, or one of your church wardens to ask for a form. Alternatively, you can download the form [here](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/application-for-enrolment-electoral-roll.docx) (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/application-for-enrolment-electoral-roll.docx>), and complete and return the form either online, or by posting it, to the vicar or a church warden.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings for St Cuthbert Bewcastle, St Mary Stapleton, and St Cuthbert Kirklington with St Mary Hethersgill will be held at Stapleton Hall on Wednesday 30th April at 7pm. The APCM is open to the public. The meeting will begin with a short illustrated talk about the east face of the Bewcastle Cross. All are welcome to the first part of the meeting. It will be followed by PCC meetings for each parish, which are for PCC members only.

A selection of podcast sermons can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website under the 'Podcasts' menu tab. Please do sign up to receive notifications and updates.

Dear Friends,

Frailty and dust at the beginning of Spring? Lent is the season when we remember our mortality even as the world around us breaks into life at the end of the long winter. It derives from Jesus being driven into the desert, fasting for forty days and nights, and facing dark temptation. It includes his crucifixion on Good Friday and his lying in the womb of the earth on Black Saturday. It is broken, like the seal on the garden tomb, by his resurrection from the dead, being born again from the earth, early in the morning of Easter Sunday. It began on Ash Wednesday, when I marked the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those who came to our last communion service before Easter, using the black ashes of a burnt palm cross from last year's Palm Sunday service. As I mark the cross, I say to each one "remember you are but dust, and to dust you shall return."

Those words hold a profound truth. They draw from the creation story in Genesis where God created Adam out of the dust and breathed life or spirit into his nostrils. But this story is built on the recognition that 'we are what we eat', and all we eat ultimately comes from the soil, be that animal, vegetable or mineral. In other words, we are made of the soil, or dust, of the earth, and it is to this that our bodies return after we die, whether we are buried or cremated. The ash of the cross represents this soil – our mortality. Our lives, then, are soil that has been 'enspirited' for the time we are alive. Quite literally, we are 'living soil.' So we have an extraordinarily close relationship with the earth. But what does this mean?

Very early one morning, Cuthbert set out on a long walk from his monastery at Melrose on the banks of the Tweed, to head into the hills around what is now Hawick, to minister and share God's love with the poor living in the rough uplands. He was expecting, as usual, to be gone for several days, maybe even weeks. He was accompanied by a young lad who had asked to come along. They headed south east down Dere Street, the old Roman Road, until they reached the River Teviot, some ten miles distant, then turned right to head south west, upstream, following the river towards the mountains. Once they left the road, their journey took them over rough ground, through woods, and along the occasional footpath. It was hard going. After many weary hours of walking they were both tired and famished, miles from anywhere. Cuthbert said to the lad, "Where shall we find refreshment? Do you know anyone in the area who might give us something to eat?" "I was just wondering that" said the boy, "as we haven't brought any provisions with us. No, I don't know anyone who might feed us, and we still have a long journey ahead which we can't hope to manage without eating." Cuthbert replied, "My son, learn to have faith, and trust in God, who will never let those who trust in him starve to death." Then looking up, and seeing a fish eagle flying high overhead, he said, "Do you see that eagle? It is possible for God to feed us even by her." They continued on their way. A short time later, they rounded a bend in the river, and there on the banks ahead of them sat the eagle, perched on a rock. "Look," said Cuthbert, "there is our handmaiden, the eagle, that I spoke to you about. Run and see what provision God has sent us." The boy ran and found a good-sized fish which the eagle had just caught, and brought it back to him. "What?" exclaimed Cuthbert, "Why have you not given part to God's handmaiden? Quick. Cut the fish in two and give her half, as her service well deserves." The lad did as he was asked. They carried the other part with them on their journey, and when they reached a village, they broiled the fish and shared it with those with whom they stayed while Cuthbert told them of God's extraordinary love.

Cuthbert knew what it meant to be 'enspirited soil'. He understood that the change in creation, wrought by Christ's death on the cross, his resurrection at Easter, and the gift of God's Spirit at Pentecost, brought new life to all living beings with whom we share soil and breath. The Anglo-Saxons saw all animals and birds as brothers and sisters, precious to God and therefore precious to them, worthy of sharing God's gifts with us. This story is just one example of many, and its why there are so many animals on the Bewcastle Cross.

In a world that seems to have gone mad, we could do worse, as part of our Lent, than to look on the bursting out of Spring with new eyes of enspirited dust, and, whether we're milking cows, lambing ewes, walking dogs, catching mowdies, watching birds, even caring for each other, to give thanks to God for all life. To be 'Singing Soil' while we may.

Your friend and priest,

Robert

April 2025-----BENEFICE NEWS-----April 2025

Thursday 27th March 2 - 3.30 pm Bewcastle School Stay & Play with ARTventures. come along and join us for a Mother's Day Stay & Play session with ARTventurers! We will be creating some lovely Mother's Day cards and gifts. All children age 0-5 years are welcome to come along and join in the fun!

Saturday 29th March 9.30am – 1 pm (Farmers' Market Day) at Brampton Moot Hall Fairtrade refreshments, raffle and items from Carlisle World Shop. We are celebrating 20 years since Brampton gained status as a Fairtrade Town (Fairtrade Fortnight will be 22nd Sept- 5th Oct)

Monday 31st March 8 pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen. Some tunes to ensure we have something in common to play can be found on the [Bewcastle House of Prayer](#) website. Music can be found on [TheSession.org](#) website.

Tuesday 1st April 2025 12 noon Bewcastle School Community Lunch. Chicken & leek pie with mashed potatoes, cheesy leeks and peas, followed by cheesecake £7.50 per adult, £2.90 per child. To book your place please email emmialittle@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk or call the school office on: 016977 48662.

Saturday 5th April 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Stuart Anderson. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48378

Tuesday 8th April Kirklington & District WI AGM

Wednesday 9th April 7.30 pm Stapleton WI Ukelele Band Anyone welcome to join, Call 07398 130363 for more information Light refreshments served and new members very welcome.

Sunday 20th April 10.30 am - 2 pm Bewcastle Hub at Roadhead Hall. Community drop in event - free entry and refreshments. Cakes, bacon rolls, crafts and produce for sale. All welcome.

Tuesday 15th April 8pm Bewcastle Heritage Society in Roadhead Hall An illustrated talk by Chris Craghill: Gilsland Barony and Bewcastle Manor. Admission £3

Thursday 17th – Monday 21st April 10 am – 5 pm. Easter Craft Fair at Dacre Hall, Lanercost. Admission £1, accompanied children free. Details 07875 954285

Thursday 24th April 7 pm Cookery Demonstration by Chris Hogg at Stapleton Hall. Tickets £7 includes tea and coffee, from Jenny 07866 231196

Tuesday 29th April Bewcastle School PFA Great North Air Ambulance Clothing Collection in aid of the GNAA and the PFA. The last day to bring in bags is **Tuesday 29th April 2025**. If do you require any bags, please email emmialittle@bewcastle.cumbria.sch.uk or call the school office on: 016977 48662. Thank you for your continued support.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 3rd – Thurs 8th May Hethersgill Social Committee Scarecrow Festival Please have your scarecrow displayed by Sat 3rd May to be judged at VE celebrations at Hethersgill Village Hall on Thus 8th May.

Saturday 3rd May Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Ian Anderson

Thurs 8th May Hethersgill Social Committee VE Celebrations. Hall open from 5pm, Kirkups Fish & Chip van (pre-orders). Tea/coffee, raffle, homemade crafts competition. Lighting Lantern & VE tribue at 9.30 pm

Friday 30th 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.

Thursday 19th June 6.30 pm Colours: Fashion Show in aid of Stapleton Public Hall. Tickets £6 each or 3 for £15. tickets in advance from Jenny 07866 231196, Shona 07738 004697, Maria 07774 10912

Saturday 6th September Stapleton Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 20th September Hethersgill Village Hall Committee Jason Arnup & Band

Ab Fab Yoga: Every Monday 10 am at Stapleton Public Hall. Kath 07931 285475

Line Dancing Classes: Every Monday 7.30 - 9 pm at Stapleton Public Hall. Ann Robb 07855 919368 Anyone who can't attend please let Ann Robb know. Thanks

Stapleton Knit and Natter Group: Every Tuesday 7pm All welcome. For details contact Carol 01697543094.

Stapleton WI : 2nd Wed of every month 7.30 pm at Stapleton Hall. Details Jennifer on 07802 896029

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

Bewcastle Hub Caring Café at Roadhead Hall 11.30 am 3rd Thursday of the month

At the latest meeting of The Bewcastle Hub in Roadhead, the event was visited by the High Sheriff and his wife. He made an award to The Hub for their Services to the Community and stressed how vital it was in such a rural environment that local people feel there is somewhere they can meet, chat and enjoy a cup of tea and some lovely food together. It was a jolly occasion and the High Sheriff also made a separate Award to Liz Wilkinson, the founder member.

St Mary's Church PCC ask that people tending graves in the churchyard take plastic wreaths and flowers away with them and do not put them in the compost heap. Thank you.

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 eg. grass cutting/strimming/cleaning please contact Irene 01228 675 389 or Madge 01228 675568.

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK Committee would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts in 2024. With donations being made by local undertakers in memory of loved ones and kind donations made by Doreen Little, Liz Sunley also including the annual donation letters the total amount raised for 2024 is £3527.60 a marvellous amount which will go towards the much needed research into cancer diagnosis and treatments. Thank you all for your generosity.

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

Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club. Winners: January 1st Mark Sisson, 2nd Dougie Lake, 3rd Eric Story. February: 1st Herbert Bouch, 2nd Ann Dodds, 3rd Ian Spedding. March: 1st David Baxter, 2nd Katie Graham, 3rd Mark SissonIrene on 01228 675389. Thank you for all your support

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 Scouts Contact. Simon Barrett 01228 497970 bewcastlescouts@gmail.com

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 **May 2025** issue is **Saturday 12th April** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, LyneholmeFord, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me