

January 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----January 2026

For enquiries please contact Revd Dr Robert Brown

Priest-in-Charge, Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill
Greenholme, Bewcastle, Cumbria, CA6 6PW T: 016977 48438
email:Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
4th Jan	Epiphany				10 am HC
11 th Jan	Baptism of Christ			10 am HC	
18 th Jan	Epiphany 2		10 am MP		
25 th Jan	Epiphany 3	3 pm Evensong			
1 Feb	Candlemas				10 am HC

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

1st Sunday of the month at 2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

We bring before thee, O Lord, the troubles and perils of people and nations, the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the weary, the failing powers of the ages. O Lord, draw near to each; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*St Anselm, 1033-1109, Archbishop of Canterbury*)

Church Notice

Friday 23rd January Burns Night Supper & Dancing at Stapleton Public Hall. Supper with a light touch of Burns and dancing led by the wonderful Margaret Main to help the PCC raise funds for St Mary's Church. Tickets £12.50 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky, Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Bar available. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322/07746 286311 or Tricia 016977 48833 or any member of the PCC. Please bring plate, glass and cutlery

Please note **evening services at Bewcastle** during the winter will be held at **3 pm** instead of the usual 6 pm in summer.

Bewcastle church is hoping to improve the look of the churchyard by "rewilding" it - sowing wildflower seeds and possibly adding in native shrubs around the walls - generally taking it away from the monoculture it now has and improving the biodiversity. We would aim to mow paths through the flowers so that all headstones are accessible. We need to ensure the wildflowers we use are those that are and were native to Bewcastle so working with Cumbria Wildlife Trust we would welcome contributions from anyone who can recall the flowers in our old hay meadows and along roadside verges. To collect this information and to chat through the idea we will be at the midweek Hub on Tuesday 6th of January – please come and share your knowledge with us.

If you know of someone who would be unable to attend church but would like to receive communion at home, or would appreciate a visit from me, please do let me know. My contact details are below and at the top of the newsletter.

If anyone would like to talk to me about anything (doesn't need to be church-related, for example if you don't know where to turn for help or someone to speak to), please do feel free to contact me.

Conversations will always be confidential. My normal parish working days are Monday and Friday (plus Sundays) but I will always try and find time to listen. Phone no: 016977 48438, email:

Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

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

January 2026-----BENEFICE NEWS-----January 2026

Monday 29th December 8 pm Folk Tunes Sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome

Thursday 1st January Games Day at the Black Lion. Killer darts, pool, the dice game, play your cards right and win prizes up to £100. etc. lots of prizes

Saturday 3rd January 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 6th January 11 am – 2 pm Bewcastle Mini Hub at Roadhead Hall. Come for a chat and free coffee in the supper room; scones and cakes for sale. There will also be a chance to chat through the proposal to rewild the Bewcastle churchyard.

Tuesday 13th January 7 pm Stapleton Knit and Natter group recommencing after the Christmas break

Wednesday 14th January 10.30 am Stapleton WI: Coffee morning and Bring & Buy Sale. For more details about WI contact the President Tel 07398 130363

Saturday 17th January 7.30 - 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Brian Griffin. Coffee/tea and biscuits. Bar, raffle. Details Irene 01228 675389. Everyone welcome

Sunday 18th January 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.

Monday 19th January 8 pm Folk Tunes Sessions at the Black Lion. 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 20th January 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall Programme planning meeting. All ideas welcomed.

Friday 23rd January Burns Night Supper & Dancing at Stapleton Public Hall. Supper with a light touch of Burns and dancing led by the wonderful Margaret Main to help the PCC raise funds for St Mary's Church. Tickets £12.50 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky. Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Bar available. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322/07746 286311 or Tricia 016977 48833 or any member of the PCC. Please bring plate, glass and cutlery

Wednesday 28 January Bewcastle School Community Lunch. To book our delicious two course meal for £5.50 per person, please contact office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk or call 01228 577264 by Friday 23 January 2026.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 21st February Hethersgill Social Committee Ceilidh at Hethersgill Parish Hall with Iain Anderson

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.

Bolton Fell Moss Volunteer Work Parties: First Tuesday of the month 10 am – 2 pm. Contact Ros Campbell ros.campbell@naturalengland.org.uk 07570 370775

Stapleton Knit and Natter Group: Every Tuesday 7 pm in Stapleton Hall. **Carol 01697 543094**

Beading Classes: Wednesday 1.30 – 3.30 pm fortnightly. Details Christine Batey 01228 791348

Stapleton WI: 2nd Wednesday of every month 7.30 pm at Stapleton Hall

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

Carpet Bowling: Every Thursday in Stapleton Hall

Badminton: Every Thursday 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Hethersgill Parish Hall. Contact Andy Little 07765 244071

January 2026 NEWS AND THANKS----- January 2026

Recently some of the headstones in the churchyard at St Cuthbert's Church, Bewcastle appear to have been damaged by the grass cutting equipment used by Cumberland Council. Although the churchyard is closed for new burials, and still owned by the church, its management has been taken over by the Council who are now legally responsible for it. Headstones, however, remain the responsibility of the relevant families or their descendants.

Following the damage, the PCC has secured assurance from the Council that their large motorised cutting decks will no longer be used to cut the grass. They have additionally approached their insurers who advise anyone responsible for a family or ancestors' headstone that appears to have been damaged recently to submit a form they have supplied. Copies of this form are available from the noticeboard in the church vestibule. Alternatively, you can email info@bewcastle.com to ask for one to be emailed back to you. If you want to consult a specialist monumental mason who might be able to effect repairs to a damaged headstone you'll find some business cards from a restorer beside the claim forms.

The council have also conducted a full assessment of the safety of every headstone, a survey they are required to carry out every five years and have reported that only one had to be laid flat as it was deemed unsafe. They have commissioned another survey of the trees in the churchyard and are formulating a plan to manage them.

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 thank you 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 675389 or Madge 01228 675568.

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

Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club. December winners: 1st Willie Wilson; 2nd Gordon Waugh ; 3rd Caroline Bouch . Drawn at Black Lion Pub. If you would like to renew or join for 2026 please contact Irene on 01228 675389 or a Committee Member. £11 per year. 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.

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 07:45 to 8:45, and After-School Clubs/extended childcare from 3:30 to 5:30. Please call 01228 577264 or email office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk for more information

Shankhill Parent & Toddler Group every Tues 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

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-notices

I have recently got a new computer, and I think I may have lost some email addresses in the process, so please let me know if you hear of anyone who hasn't received their emailed copy, or who would like to be added to the list. Thanks. Tricia

Deadline for the **February 2026** issue is **Saturday 17th January** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me