

May 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----May 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

Please note my parish working days are Mondays and Fridays (plus Sundays)

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
3 rd May	Easter 5		10 am HC		
10 th May	Rogation Sunday	11 am Rogation at Greenholme			
14 th May	Ascension Day	7 pm Deanery Ascension Day Service at Wetheral Church			
17 th May	Easter 7			10 am HC	
24 th May	Pentecost	5 pm Celtic Evening Prayer @ Greenholme	10 am HC		
31 st May	Trinity				10 am Holy Baptism
7 th June	Trinity 1	6 pm HC			

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle: Service on 1st Sunday of the month at 2.15 pm

Prayer of the Month

O God, the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before. Amen

Church Notices

Annual Church Parochial Meetings. Notice is hereby given of a Meeting to Elect Church Wardens and of the Annual Church Parochial Meetings for the parishes of Bewcastle, Stapleton and Kirklington with Hethersgill at **2pm on Sunday 10th May 2026 at The Barn, Greenholme, Bewcastle.** The meeting will follow the **Rogation Service to be held at 11am** at the same venue, followed by a **bring-and-share lunch.** We will also provide barbequed food. Everyone in the benefice is invited to attend the service, lunch, and/or the meetings. If you would like to attend lunch, please could you let me know by Sunday 3rd May so we have an idea of numbers. Also, if you have portable chairs please feel free to bring them along.

Baptism and Confirmation 2026. A number of folk have expressed an interest in being baptised or confirmed this year, so I will be running a course of five baptism/confirmation preparation classes at Greenholme, Bewcastle on **Fridays (4.30-6pm)** commencing on **5th June** and finishing on **17th July** with two Fridays off in the middle. The course is also open to those who would just like a refresher about the Christian faith. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, I warmly encourage you to drop me an email (robert.brown@bewcastlehouseofprayer.org.uk), or give me a call (016977 48438). There is absolutely no obligation or expectation to attend just by getting in touch, so do please feel free to ask any questions. For younger folk, the only criteria is to be ready to decide for yourself, so you are probably likely to be ten years old or more (Year 5 upwards), but more mature adults are especially invited. More details are available online on the Bewcastle House of Prayer website (www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk).

Congratulations! In recognition of his extraordinary over 50 years of service to St Cuthbert's Church, Bewcastle, as church warden, Frank Waugh has received a personal certificate from the Bishop of Carlisle awarding him the status of Church Warden Emeritus. There can be few people in the country able to match this length of dedication and service. The bishop's certificate is an acknowledgement and a sign of the deep gratitude of thanks that we, as a community, and the Church, extend to Frank, and to Anne, for all their long-standing service and support. Thank you to you both, and our very warmest congratulations.

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. Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk

I want to think about leadership - in particular to start with - the kind of leadership currently being shown by President Trump.

I admit that I know very little about the world of diplomacy or politics. About the issues raised for example by the goings on in the Middle East, World Economics or the Ukraine. But Trump 's constantly crass and intemperate outbursts I find not just plain rude but dangerous and delusionary. Just who does He think he is.? On the day I write this there are cartoons of him (apparently released by his office) dressed as Jesus healing the sick of our world.

True leadership doesn't "Pose" or shout the odds. It is courteous. It listens. It engages. It seeks to understand. It is compassionate and caring. It understands that if there is a serious problem its solution will not be found by rudely shouting the odds but by talking, listening and learning why other people think as they do, and where a middle ground can be found.

I came across a classic example of this the other day when reading an article about Archbishop Robert Runcie. Runcie was often in his time at Canterbury accused of being indecisive. Incapable of giving a clear lead. Typically he replied "Of course the Church must give a clear lead. But a lead against rigid thinking. Simplifying difficult and complex problems". His son James became so fed up with his father being vilified that he urged him to be stronger and clearer. The reply he received was almost angry. "I am strong on forgiveness and tolerance." Runcie wrote. "I am clear in my Faith in Jesus Christ. But I believe in the authority of Love".

Leadership comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Presidents and politicians, councillors and Kings. All of these live in the public eye and often carry heavy burdens

But leadership can also be a much kinder, gentler animal rooted in local and family life I think for example of the importance of Mum and Dad within a family - even older siblings too. I think of the leadership of school teachers, nurses, carers, leaders of voluntary organisations like Scouts and Guides and Young Farmers. The local minister or vicar. Each one of these is a leader looked to for kindness, support, understanding. In time of crisis to be able to say if it is all going wrong "I'm so sorry, and I understand. It happened to me too. Let's talk about it " Or in good times "Yes that happened to me too. I'm so pleased for you!"

Again and again each one of has an opportunity to play the role of leader in whatever may be ours. To listen, to love, to care to understand. For this is what local leadership is all about. Indeed it's one of the key building blocks of Community life. Whom I wonder can you stand beside in love and kindness today?

Bishop John

May 2026-----BENEFACTIVE NEWS-----May 2026

Saturday 2nd May 7.30 pm Graham Brown, rock guitarist at the Black Lion, Hethersgill

Saturday 2nd May 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 5th May 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.

Saturday 9th May from 1pm Hethersgill Social Committee's Big Picnic and Play and Scarecrow Competition at Hethersgill Village Hall. Dog show, family races/games, welly throwing, bouncy castle ,craft/baking /preserve competitions, prettiest cake competition. Music, Raffle Rigghead sausage/burgers to purchase between 4-6pm. Village photo at 4 pm. Scarecrow display from 2nd- 9th May. Scarecrow winners voted on day by public vote. All welcome. Enquiries Christine 07790 302016

Tuesday 12th May Kirklington WI

Saturday 16th May 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Keith Robertson. £6 includes tea/coffee & biscuits. Enquiries to Irene 01228 675389. All welcome

Sunday 17th May 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 19th May 2 pm The Knowe URC Poetry Group at Roadhead Hall. Theme: Pilgrimages. Please feel free to bring a poem to read, or perhaps to share a memory, an interesting article or recording or simply come along and listen and enjoy some conversation, tea and cake. All welcome. Free entry but small donation to hall hire is appreciated. Details: lisa.wilson@nwsynod.org.uk

Tuesday 19th May 7 for 7.30 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society AGM and Dinner at Metal Bridge Inn. Menu from Barbara

Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th May Forgotten Lands Festival at Bewcastle. Family friendly rock-folk festival at Bewcastle. Tickets and info at www.forgottenlands.org. Reduced price tickets for CA postcodes

Friday 29th May 7pm 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.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 19th September Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Gordon Brown

The Platinum Anniversary Stapleton and Solport Parish Show will be held on 5th September . There are a few new classes to look out for and we are introducing a class for men only in the industrial section, so gents get your bake on! Also, this year's show children's section will be open to all children who live within the benefice , or who attend Bewcastle, Fir Ends or Shankhill CE Primary schools. Schedules will be available nearer the time, updates on where they are will be posted later in the Spring. In the meantime, if you've any questions please get in touch with me, Catherine Lawson on 07746286311.

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 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

Craft & Natter Afternoon: Every Wednesday afternoon at the Black Lion

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

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

Carpet Bowling: will resume in September

Badminton & Table Tennis: Every Thursday 7.30 – 9 pm at Hethersgill Parish Hall. Contact Andy Little 07765 244071

May 2026 NEWS AND THANKS----- May 2026

Hethersgill Church would like to thank everyone who helps keep Hethersgill Church & churchyard so tidy. If you have any spare time to help with grass cutting/strimming/cleaning please contact Irene 01228 675389 or Madge 01228 675568

Kirklington Church PCC - would like to express their appreciation and grateful thanks to Mr Willie Wilson who has for many years tended to the grass-cutting of Kirklington Church churchyard and its immediate setting.

Cancer research. Kathleen Hogg would like to thank all committee members past and present for their hard work and support over many years. Unfortunately we are giving up. Thanks to the wider community and businesses who have helped our efforts.

A new defibrillator has been installed on the wall of Hethersgill Parish Hall by kind permission of the hall committee. In case of emergency if you dial 999 you will be given the code to open the cabinet to access the defibrillator

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

Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club. April winners: 1st Ellie Richardson, 16; 2nd Ann Waugh, 90; 3rd Christine Waugh, 82. Drawn at Hall AGM Meeting. 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-notice

Deadline for the **June** issue is **Saturday 16th May** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me