

August 2025 -----BENEFICE NEWS----- August 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
3 rd August	Trinity 7				10 am MP
10 th August	Trinity 8		10 am HC		
17 th August	Trinity 9			10 am HC	
24 th August	Trinity 10	6 pm HC			
31 st August	Trinity 11				10 am HC
7 th Sept	Trinity 12		10 am HC		

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

2.15 pm

Prayer for the Month

. Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Callum Andrew Laurie of Kirkdale, Kirkcambbeck on Sunday 6th July 2025 at St Cuthbert Kirklington

Funerals

Mary Ashbridge (91) formerly of Mallsburn Farm, Mallsburn on Friday 11th July 2025 at St Mary Stapleton

Church Notices

Stapleton PCC

Monday 11th August 7pm at Stapleton Hall

Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC

Monday 18th August at Nether Onsett Farm

Advance notice of **Harvest Thanksgiving Services** for this year are as follows:

Bewcastle

10 am Sunday 21st September

Kirklington with Hethersgill

10 am Sunday 28th September

Stapleton

10 am Sunday 5th October

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.

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Dear Friends,

Sometimes, when I'm reading poetry, I come across an unexpected line that brings me to a crashing halt, like I've just fallen off a cliff, or slammed into a wall. I have to stop, pause, go back, re-read, and let it do its work in my spirit. It doesn't happen often, but when it does, it splits my world open, and I see something I've always felt deep down but never been quite able to articulate, or perhaps never even knew it was there until the words revealed it, and I say 'yes, that's right'. I find such moments completely transformative. That is, they permanently change the way I see the world, and particularly my relationship with God, which grows through them. Perhaps they put voice to a deep sense of yearning, or frustration, or excruciating wonder, or a pain or loss that hurts so much I've buried it away. And as the words do their work and send down their roots, some kind of healing takes place deep within.

I've shared previously about one such occasion when I was reading an RS Thomas poem in church on my own. Another moment happened when I was reading a poem by Edward Thomas several years ago, called 'The Glory', that has stayed with me ever since. He is sometimes referred to as a war poet, and he was killed within a week or so of signing up and being sent to the front line in 1917. But few of his poems are about war; mostly they are about nature and creation, to which he felt an extraordinary attachment. Perhaps his most famous poem is 'Adlestrop', which simply, but profoundly, describes a momentary view of the countryside from the window of his train when it made an unscheduled stop at the tiny station in Gloucestershire on 24 June 1914.

'The Glory' also describes a momentary view of the Hampshire countryside, but this time it is so achingly beautiful he wants, needs, to become part of this 'Glory', for it to become part of him. Yet as he looks and allows the scene to soak into his soul, he is aware that he is inadequate for it, something in him is missing. The poem finishes with the desperate cry 'I cannot bite the day to the core', like the taunting but explosive crispness of (the first?) apple. Creation has become the vehicle of utterly transcendent Beauty for which his being burns. The frustration of this intimate separation is so overwhelmingly intense, yet so tantalizingly close, that he creates this astonishing line that still takes away my breath every time I read it: 'Or must I be content with discontent, as larks and swallows are perhaps with wings.' There it is. That's it. Those are the words that pull me apart. Skylarks, of course, are renowned for their impossible hovering high in the sky, distant specks pouring out their song over all creation. And swallows, which fly thousands of miles each year, are the most agile and acrobatic of birds that sweep and twist and turn and tumble and dive and switch and rise and race on those wings. How could anyone come up with such an oxymoronic, and therefore unbearable, depiction of longing and frustration? And yet in so doing I find myself saying 'yes', for I, too, long to stretch for the elusive skies and be part of this Glory, but also find myself stunted and earthbound, lacking and unholy. He has spliced the words together that crack open this deep ache for The Word in my soul. As St Augustine put it, 'Our hearts, O God, are restless till they find their rest in you.'

Words. It is no coincidence that Jesus is described as 'The Word' of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in the prologue of John's Gospel that we read every Christmas, or that Genesis, the first book of the bible, tells of God speaking this Word in order to bring Creation into being, 'And God said "Let there be..."', and it was so.' Words have, and have always had, the power to call things into existence, to vocalise, and thus concretise, thoughts, pictures, and attitudes that lead to actions and consequences, that affect our lives and the life of creation around us. Sometimes they are creative, uplifting, positive, full of wonder, joy and laughter, a force for good and kindness. Others can be divisive, destructive, hurtful, spiteful, vindictive, a force for greed, fear, and oppression. Out of the same mouth both can come, which says something about the state of our own hearts and hints at the self-awareness and inadequacy that Edward Thomas was honest enough to recognise in himself.

Moments like the encounter in this poem, that pull us up short and ask us to open ourselves to the Glory that is beyond us, that erupt the yearning and longing in each of us, prove the invitation that draws us towards Beauty, Himself. They have the potential to be life-changing if we let them. Sometimes they startle us, sometimes they dawn quietly on us. Always they are deeply personal and intimate – they are the movement of God's Spirit in our souls, bidding us welcome to Life, to gentle forgiveness and freedom and flourishing, to peace and rest and refreshment, to come Home. It is what we seek Sunday by Sunday in the eternal hour in church.

It's August and soon the swallows will be leaving us for their long and dangerous journey to sub-Saharan Africa. Perhaps we, too, could learn to recognise our discontent as they with their wings.

Your friend and priest, Robert

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Monday 28th July 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 by searching for them on [TheSession.org](#) website

Saturday 2nd August 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with John & Robbie. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 5th August 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.

Tuesday 12th August Kirklington & District WI Outing

Wednesday 13th August 7.30 pm Stapleton WI “Old Fireplace Stories” by Chrissy Craghill. Visitors welcome. For more details about WI contact the President Tel 07398 130 363.

Sunday 17th August 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.

Sunday 17th August 11 am Bewcastle Heritage Society Kirklington Hall and the River Lyne: an easy walk with Trevor. Bring a packed lunch and boots. Meet at Roadhead Hall

Monday 25th August 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 by searching for them on [TheSession.org](#) website

Claiming Dates

Thursday 4th September 7 pm Parish Open Evening in Hethersgill Parish Hall. All residents are invited by the parish council to meet a variety of groups and organisations and discuss the recent community survey. Light refreshments will be available. Full details will be in September's Benefice News. Please come along and meet your neighbours!

Saturday 6th September Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Jonny Duncan

Saturday 6th September Stapleton Flower and Produce Show. Schedules are now available in the church and Stapleton Public Hall and from Catherine Lawson. Also the paper plates needed for one of the children's classes will be available from Catherine, (07746 286311) if they've not got them from school.

Saturday 20th September Hethersgill Village Hall Committee Jason Arnup & Band. Admission £10, enquiries to Stuart 07493 428785. Bar, raffle

Sunday 12th October Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Harvest Lunch

Saturday 25th October 2 – 4 pm Hethersgill Social Committee Hallowe'en Party

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 has stopped for the summer and will be back in September

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

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

August 2025-----NEWS AND THANKS August 2025

My garden (located near to Bewcastle School) needs you! Are your green fingers looking for extra work? Can you spare 2 - 3 hours/month to keep my flower beds in order? Grass cutting not required. Please contact Mandy Sherwin (016977 48170 or sherwins5029@gmail.com) to discuss further.

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.

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

Hethersgill Parish Hall 100 Club. Winners: May winners: 1st Fiona Wilkinson; **2nd** Bill McCormick; **3rd** Gillian Bell. Drawn at Black Lion coffee morning
June winners: 1st Gillian Richardson; **2nd** Isa Main; **3rd** Julie Bainbridge. Drawn at Stapleton WI
For Details call Irene 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.

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 Community Pool is now OPEN for the season. To purchase a membership, please see the link below for more details .Please note the price for the 2025 membership remains at £50. Please see link below for membership form
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=izGTMEImPE2czcYSH5jioZLCjMQWEF9OmuS60t4F_sRUQ0pOQjYzNDczU0wwRjgyUjBUVkiYNIFCNS4u

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 **September 2025** issue is **Saturday 16th August** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeform, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me