

September 2025 -----BENEFICE NEWS----- September 2025

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
7 th Sept	Trinity 12		10 am HC		
14 th Sept	Holy Cross			10 am HC	
21 st Sept	Trinity 14	10 am Harvest Thanksgiving			
28 th Sept	Trinity 15				10 am Harvest Thanksgiving
5 th Oct	Trinity 16		10 am Harvest Thanksgiving		

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle

September 7th 2.15pm Knowe Church Harvest Thanksgiving Service with collection for local food banks. Refreshments in Roadhead Hall after service Everyone welcome

Prayer for the Month – a prayer of St Columba of Iona

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to me, the least of saints, to me allow that I may keep a door in Paradise. That I may keep even the small door, the farthest, darkest, coldest door, the door that is least used, the stiffest door, if so it be in thine house, O God, if so it be that I can see thy glory even afar, and hear thy voice, and know that I am with thee, O God. Amen.

Church Notices

We will be starting an occasional **Family Service** for everyone in the benefice, particularly for families with younger and primary-aged children. Over the years many families have had their children baptised or christened, promising to bring them up in the church family. However, normal church services are not the easiest to navigate with a young family. These services will be much less formal, with guitar-led worship, accessible bible readings, a story instead of a sermon, a play area at the back of the church, and will last about 40 mins. The hope is that parents, godparents and young people, and anyone else who might be interested, will find this an easier and more welcoming format than our normal liturgy. We will have refreshments available at the back of the church after the service. Our first one will be at **St Cuthbert's Kirklington on Sunday 26th October at 10am.**

Wednesday 3rd September, 7pm Lanercost Priory. Licensing of Revd Ben Phillips as Vicar of the Benefice of Lanercost with Walton, Gilsland and Nether Denton and installation as the Mission Community Leader of The Brampton Deanery Area by the Rt Revd Robert Saner-Haigh, Bishop of Carlisle. All welcome.

Apple Pressing Day, Saturday 27th September 2-4pm at Greenholme, Bewcastle. Bring your apples and some containers to take away the juice, or just come and join us for a fun and sociable afternoon, a cup of fresh apple juice, and maybe lend a hand chopping and juicing apples. Everyone welcome. There is no charge.

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](http://BewcastleHouseofPrayer.org.uk) website under the 'Podcasts' menu tab.

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Having just binned 150 old sermons I found myself wondering if anything I had said in ANY of them had been of the slightest use! From the pulpit you notice the “glazed eyes”.

There’s a wonderful description of the dire effect of bad preaching which has long haunted me. It comes from Trollope’s Barchester Towers and is a diatribe of the odious Mr Slope - chaplain to the Bishop of Barchester. “There is” he writes “perhaps no greater hardship inflicted on humankind than the requirement of listening to sermons! No one but a preaching clergyman has the power to compel an audience to sit in silence and to be tortured. No one can rid himself of the preaching clergyman.... We are not forced to come to Church. No! But we desire more than this. We desire not to be forced away..... We desire to be allowed to leave the House of God without that anxious longing for escape which is the common consequence of common Sermons “ Wow!

What follows in the rest of this letter is a personal memorandum to myself mainly scribbled some sixty two years ago when as a student at Theological College each of us had to endure the ordeal of preaching to the College Community, then having the content of what we had said analysed by our colleagues. Certainly it was one of the most painful experiences of my life. Here it is, written not as a formal piece but as a number of comments jotted down at the time, and in no particular order. See what you think.

- The purpose of preaching is to encourage and to affirm people everywhere in the basic Christian belief that that every one of us is deeply loved and needed by God. And this regardless of who we are, whatever we’ve done or failed do. Whatever we believe or can’t.

- Always remember that simple as this message may be, Faith in general and God in particular are mysteries deeper than we can ever explain or understand. Problems like suffering, evil, injustice will never be solved Don’t therefore peddle easy answers. There are none. Even on the Cross Jesus screamed at God “ WHY”?

- Each of us will experience God in our own way, living with doubt, anger, despair. So always be humble and sensitive in what you say. Many of those to whom you are speaking are likely to be miles further down their spiritual road than you, and may have suffered more than you can ever imagine.

- Don’t try to be clever, witty or amusing. Preaching is about God not about you, however clever or saintly you may think yourself to be. Just as a good leader of worship aims to make himself or herself invisible, so will a good preacher.

- Learn (like Our Lord) to use stories from everyday life to make the Point you are trying to make. Stories which those listening can make their own, take away and think about later. Phrases like “I have found this helps me“ can often be useful. It makes the point that you have problems too.

- Except on special occasions try not to speak for more than a maximum of 8 minutes. Not only does this demand of you discipline, but it helps to maintain the right liturgical balance in a service between a sermon and the prayers, the worship, the readings and the hymns.

- Prepare prayerfully always before you climb into the pulpit. Preaching is not easy (if you find it so you probably shouldn’t be doing it). Sunday by Sunday and often to the same congregation is demanding. You will have days when it goes well. Days when it doesn’t. It’s the same in every walk of life. Just say your prayers, have one simple message you want to get across and hand it over to God. Helpful sermons may be so because the priest knows his flock and they know him. It is within the confidence of shared love and service that sometimes communication best takes place. End of my scribbles!

If I had remembered all that I suppose there’s a chance that at least one of those 150 sermons may have been helpful. Even that some kind folk returned for a second visit!
Bishop John

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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

Tuesday 2nd September 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.

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. Please come along and meet your neighbours

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 6th September 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with John & Robbie. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 9th September Kirklington & District WI: Cumbria Fire Service: Safety in the Home

Tuesday 9th September 7pm. Stapleton Knit & Natter Group starting back at Stapleton Hall. All are welcome. For further details contact Carol on 01697543094

Wednesday 10th September 7.30 pm Stapleton WI "Bank End Wool" with Lisa Heathcote. All welcome. Details from President Tel 07398 130363.

Tuesday 16th September 6.30 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society: Visit to Cumbria Wildlife Trust Local Reserve, Houghton. A visit followed by a talk on site.

Thursday 18th September 8 pm Stapleton Carpet Bowling Club AGM in Stapleton Public Hall. Bowling starts the following week every Thursday. All Welcome.

Saturday 20th September Hethersgill Village Hall Committee Jason Arnup & Band. Admission £10, Bar, raffle. (Rigghead Farm sausage/burgers £3.50 available between 7.30 – 9 pm) Fancy dress optional. Prize for best dressed cowboy & cowgirl. To book and enquiries Stuart 07493 428785

Sunday 21st September 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 29th September 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

Saturday 4th October Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Bon Accords

Sunday 12th October Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Harvest Lunch at Hethersgill Parish Hall

Friday 24th October 7pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper at Stapleton Public Hall. Shepherd's Pie and pudding, tea & coffee. Bar available. Raffle. Tickets £12.50 (under 10s free) in advance from Catherine 016977 48322/07746 286311 or 016977 48337/48833 Please bring plate, cutlery, mug. All welcome

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

Saturday 25th October 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Bon Accords

Saturday 29th November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair

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 7 pm in Stapleton Hall. Details Carol 01697 543094

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

Carpet Bowling: Every Thursday in Stapleton Hall

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

September 2025 **NEWS AND THANKS** September 2025

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK committee will be distributing the annual donation letters from September 14th until 30th October. Donations can be given to any committee member mentioned on the letter or left at Garry Phillips at Roadhead. We would like to thank everyone for supporting us in our fundraising efforts.

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, Stapleton 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 and 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: July winners: 1st Gillian Richardson; **2nd** Jamie Armstrong; **3rd** Ann Waugh. Drawn at Stapleton Church

August winners: 1st Doreen Davidson; **2nd** Linda Summerfield; **3rd** Amanda Chew. 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 Tuesday 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 **October 2025** issue is **Saturday 13th September** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholme Ford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me