

October 2025 -----BENEFICE NEWS----- October 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
5 th Oct	Trinity 16		10 am Harvest Thanksgiving		
12 th Oct	Trinity 17			10 am HC	
19 th Oct	Trinity 18	6 pm EP			
26 th Oct	Bible Sunday				10 am Family Service
2 nd Nov	All Saints			10 am HC	

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

Knowe United Reformed Church, Bewcastle
2.15pm Knowe

Prayer for the Month

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally by thy great mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Funerals

Nancy Mary Dutton (96) of Pylewell, Smithfield, at St Cuthbert Kirklington on Monday, 1st September 2025

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.**

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.

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

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.

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Dear Friends,

Looking through the parish registers recently, I counted 38 children I had baptised (christened) across the benefice since 2017, when Philip Greenhalgh, the previous vicar, left. Several of these have been from the same families, some have moved away, others I see regularly at school, while yet others are from families outside the benefice in other parts of the country who come 'home' to have their children baptised in the church in which they grew up. All of these parents (and godparents) make a promise before God and the congregation to bring their child up in the Christian faith, and in the family of the church. All of them have thought carefully about these promises before they make them, and mean them when they say them. Some, I know, have tried really hard to abide by them and made a real effort to attend church. Others struggle to find time in the calendar of busy family life, when there are so many calls on one's time, and so little time to fit everything in. Not to mention trying to keep house and job on the go at the same time – going to church doesn't even make it onto the list of possible options for a Sunday morning! For those who have managed to make it to church with their child, it is often a real struggle – they find they are the only one present with a youngster, and there is nothing 'child-friendly' in the service aimed at them or their children; no Sunday school, no provision for families, no child care. They sit there for an hour, trying to entertain their little one to keep them quiet, unable to concentrate on what is going on. If I was in their position, I would wonder 'what is the point of this?' It's no wonder parents find it difficult to try and keep their promises.

So, we're trying to do something about it. On the last Sunday of October this year (26th), we will be trialling a family service aimed at families with children. The PCCs have all generously agreed that the first one should be at Kirklington church because this is where most children have been baptised. But it doesn't matter where your child was baptised (or not) – this service is for ALL families in the benefice since the church is all one big family (with the same Father). So whether you are from Bewcastle, Stapleton, or Hethersgill, this service is for you.

The service will be informal and child-friendly. Children who attend Shankhill, Fir Ends and Bewcastle schools will all be familiar with what happens because it will be similar to what I do at each assembly or act of collective worship with them. But in this case, they will be able to enjoy it with their parents (and godparents) present and perhaps even teach them the words and the actions! We will start with a warm welcome, followed by a guitar-led worship song (hymn) with actions, such as 'As for me and my house' or 'Step-by-step' (ask your child if you've never heard of these!). Then there will be an easy-to-follow bible reading, and followed by a story (this is the bit the children love the best). We will finish with some prayers and another song. The whole service will last in the order of 40 minutes. There will be toys and a play area at the back of the church should you need it, and refreshments after the service, for which we hope you will stay. Unfortunately, there aren't any toilet facilities at Kirklington.

Of course, many adults may find this sort of service appealing even if they don't have young families of their own. I have noticed, at some of the schools, the teachers try and come along to listen as they enjoy hearing the stories as well! And having children present gives you permission to let the child in you have some fun, while at the same time giving your spirit a drink in the holy atmosphere of God's presence – the whole point is facilitate, in some small way, for everyone, an encounter with God, and to realise that we are all part of God's big family.

So, parents, godparents, grandparents, do please avail yourselves of this opportunity. Put the date in your diary and work it into the calendar, and hopefully you'll find that trying to keep that promise becomes a little easier. Maybe even fun! And perhaps feed your own spirit at the same time...

On another note, I want to add my congratulations to Mrs Lynnsey Batey, our headteacher at Shankhill CoE Primary School, on being awarded Personality of the Year by the Stapleton and Solport Parish this summer. Mrs Batey has been outstanding as head of our church school for many years, transforming it into a welcoming, caring, and encouraging home of learning, creativity, personal and spiritual growth for all the children who attend. Ofsted uses the rare word 'exemplary' to describe much of what happens there, and that comes from the hard work and dedication of her and the rest of the staff team. I am convinced our children at Shankhill could have no better head than Mrs Batey. Well done, and well deserved, Lynnsey.

Your friend and priest,

Robert

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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

Saturday 4th October 8 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance with Bon Accords. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 7th October 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 7th October Kirklington & District WI: 101st Birthday Party

Wednesday 8th October 7.30 pm Stapleton WI AGM and game of bingo. Details from President Tel 07398 130363. All welcome

Sunday 19th October 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 21st October 8 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall Vernacular Buildings of the Solway: an illustrated talk by Alex Gibbons

Saturday 25th October 2 – 4 pm Hethersgill Social Committee Hallowe'en Party at Hethersgill Village Hall, £3 per child (includes refreshments) Music/ games/raffle Prizes; Best fancydress; Best pumpkin; Best hallowe'en picture. All enquiries/book place Call/text Linda 07443 923852

Saturday 25th October 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Bon Accords. Coffee, tea and biscuits. Details Irene 01228 675389

Monday 27th October 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 28th October 2 pm The Knowe URC Poetry Group at Roadhead Hall. Everyone welcome to join an informal group to read poems and prose, listen to music and enjoy some conversation, tea and cake. Theme for October : All Hallow's Eve. Free entry, but a small donation to hall hire appreciated

Claiming Dates

Saturday 1st November Stapleton Public Hall Dance Ian Anderson

Saturday 15th November 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with John & Bobbie

Thurs 20th – Mon 24th November 10 am – 5 pm Christmas Craft Fair at Dacre Hall, Lanercost

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

October 2025 NEWS AND THANKS October 2025

The PCC of St Mary's Church Stapleton and helpers would like to say a massive Thank You to everyone who contributed in any way to the Annual Stapleton and Solport Parish Show on Saturday 6th September. It was lovely to see such a huge array of entries, from flowers and vegetables to cakes, biscuits and preserves with some excellent items in the children's section. The committee are happy to report that a little over £900.00 was raised on the day, this will go towards the day to day upkeep of St. Mary's. .Many thanks again,

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.

.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: September: 1st Linda Little; **2nd** Julie Bainbridge; **3rd** Christine Waugh. Drawn at Hethersgill Social Committee Meeting. 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 **November 2025** issue is **Saturday 18th October** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lynholmeford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me