

August 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----August 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). If I'm not available in an emergency please contact the rural dean, Revd Ben Phillips ben@lanercost.net Tel: 07936 099123

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
2 Aug	Trinity 9	6 pm Evensong			
9 th Aug	Trinity 10			10 am MP	
16 th Aug	Trinity 11		10 am HC with Healing		
23 rd Aug	Trinity 12				10 am HC
30 th Aug	Trinity 13	10 am HC			
6 th Sept	Trinity 14			10 am 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

I rise today with the power of God to guide me, the might of God to uphold me, the wisdom of God to teach me, the eye of God to watch over me, the ear of God to hear me, the word of God to give me speech, the hand of God to protect me, the path of God to lie before me, the shield of God to shelter me, the host of God to defend me against the snares of the devil and the temptations of the world, against everyone who meditates injury to me, whether far or near. Amen. (*St Patrick, 373-461*)

From the Registers: Funerals

Jean Graham (982) of Ryehill Park, Smithfield at St Cuthbert, Kirklington on Thursday 2nd July 2026

Baptism and Confirmation 2026. A few 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 **25th September for five weeks**. 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).

Organist Needed. Very sadly, our organist at Kirklington and Hethersgill churches is temporarily unable to play for us. If there is anyone who is willing to help lead our worship on Sunday mornings for a few months by playing the organ, that would be much appreciated. The requirement would be for two Sundays a month at 10am, once at each church, playing four hymns at each service. If you are able and willing to help, or know someone who might, please get in touch with me (Robert Brown) at the contact details above.

If you know of someone who is 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

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Dear Friends,

I was talking to a young mother recently and, as usual, I asked about the pleasantries – the weather, the summer, the forthcoming holidays. As the conversation went on, I asked a few more gently probing questions and she started telling me some of the very serious health difficulties they were facing as a family. As I listened it became clearer that there was great pain and she was carrying a heavy burden. I said to her that, if she wanted, there was a home for her here in the Church, where she would be welcomed and supported. She said 'Thank you', burst into tears. There are so many people that carry pain and heavy loads in our parishes, and, while many may feel adequately supported by their friends and family, many others still feel isolated or alone.

This is the way it has always been. When Jesus wandered the highlands of Judea, or the shores of Galilee, great crowds gathered around him. Many came because they had never heard anyone speak about life and hope in the way that he did. But a huge number came because he offered healing, health, and restoration. People were desperate, lonely, struggling to cope. Some were looking after loved ones with great needs and long-term difficulties; others were in physical or emotional pain; still others had mental health conditions that crippled their ability to live normal lives. Everyone who came to him with an illness or disease found they were listened to, and healed. Everywhere he went, people flocked to him, and he healed and restored them. So much so, that when he looked at them, his heart was filled with compassion and he said they were like a flock without a shepherd. But Jesus didn't do all this healing because he was a miracle-worker. Miracle-working was not his concern or his focus. In fact one might say he had absolutely no interest in working miracles. So what, then, was he doing? Jesus' mission, his whole existence, was predicated on something completely different, and yet intimately related. Jesus knew that God didn't create a broken world. And yet the world we live in is broken. It doesn't take a genius to look around and see the madness of the so-called 'leaders' of the world, the anger and the rage that people demonstrate on our streets, and the insanity of the wars being waged against unarmed peoples, does it? And we look at the climate crisis that is growing before our eyes, as heatwave after heatwave batters our crops and water resources, as record after record is broken, as wild fires rip through countryside and dwellings, as ice caps and glaciers melt at worrying rates. The measures of 'normality' in our climate are literally disintegrating before our eyes.

And not just climate. Wildlife is disappearing as we watch. This year at Greenholme we had only one pair of swallows return instead of our usual four or five. They arrived late and all their babies died before they fledged. We had a nest of pied wagtails in our other barn, and all those chicks died before fledging, too. There have been no swifts at Bewcastle church this year, where normally there are five or six pairs. These are anecdotal observations, but looking at the Government statistics for salmon and sea trout rod and net returns for 2024 (the latest available) tells the same story – the numbers of these fish returning to our rivers has halved in the last ten years, and is a third of fifteen years ago. These are terrifying trends if you think about them and let them into your spirit. And its ALL ultimately a consequence of our economic 'development' and activity.

So I return to the topic. God did not make a broken world, but we have broken it. That's the story of Genesis, where Adam and Eve, the representatives of the human race, turned their backs on God, and decided to follow a path of self-interest instead. The dire consequence, as laid out in those first chapters of the Bible, was the disruption of the whole of creation from its intended harmony.

Now at last we can talk about Jesus and what he was doing. His entire mission is to restore the wholeness of the whole of creation. That's what all the healing and miracle-working is about. He's not performing magic-tricks to amuse or seduce, he's restoring the beauty and goodness of God's glorious creation, and that includes each one of us. Each of us is unique, special, loved, and God's will for each of us is to find the wholeness and healing that comes from being restored to a tender and gentle relationship with him. That's why Jesus said to the cripple who was lowered through the roof on a mat by his friends 'Son, your sins have been forgiven,' which was the same as saying, 'Rise up, roll up your mat, and walk.' But the cost is his own sacrificial death on the cross.

And so on **Sunday 16th August, 10am at Stapelton church**, I will be offering a 'healing' service with anointing for anyone in the benefice who wants it. This may be healing for yourself, for someone dear to you, or for a situation that weighs heavily on your heart. It may be for something specific, or for something more general like 'the climate crisis'. Or it may be that you can't articulate it, but you just feel in need of God's touch. Whatever it is, please come – there is a home for you here in the Church.

Your friend and priest,
Robert.

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Monday 27th July 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen.

Saturday 1st August 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 4th 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 11th August Kirklington & District WI

Wednesday 12th August 7.30 pm Stapleton WI at Stapleton Public Hall. Joyce Waugh will help members to understand how to use the defibrillator. All welcome.

Friday 14th August 7.30 pm Hethersgill Hall Committee Hoe Down at Hethersgill Parish Hall. £6, Bar, Raffle, Music by James Falder. Fancy dress optional; prizes for Best Dressed Cowboy/Girl. Food available to purchase: Rigghead hot and tasty Cumberland sausage rolls £4. Details Christine 07790 302016

Sunday 16th 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 16th August 11 am Bewcastle Heritage Society at Roadhead Hall. A walk with Trevor: Alston Area.

Monday 31st August 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen.

Claiming Dates

Saturday 5th September The Platinum Anniversary Stapleton and Solport Parish Show . 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.

Thursday 17th September The Knowe URC is hoping to plan an outing to Heavenfield/St. Oswald's church and Hexham Abbey. The trip will include transport by minibus, a visit to St Oswald's, coffee and a guided tour of Hexham Abbey and some free time to enjoy lunch and a look around the town before return to Brampton. Cost approx £30 per person. For more details please contact Rev Lisa Moore Wilson lisa.wilson@nwsynod.co.uk

Saturday 19th September Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Gordon Brown

Sunday 20th September 12 – 3pm TableTop Sale for Penny Jones Sanctuary at Hethersgill Village Hall. All enquiries Liz 07554 532867

Friday 9th October 7 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper at Stapleton Public Hall

Saturday 21st November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall

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: will start again on 8th September 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

August 2026 NEWS AND THANKS----- August 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/trimming/cleaning please contact Irene 01228 675389 or Madge 01228 675568.

The Bewcastle Cancer Research UK Committee would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts in 2025. The annual donation letters have raised £2206.19 and a further £718.03 has been raised with the kind help from donations made by Mr J Bouch, Mrs L Sunley, collection boxes in the local area and donations from funeral directors in memory of loved ones. The committee was started in 1971 following the death of a local lady Mrs Stokoe who had raised money by holding a Whist drive every year. The North Cumberland area secretary for Cancer Research, Mr Handy suggested forming a Bewcastle committee to continue her good work. This idea was met by a good response and the annual whist drive and grand drawing began. The first year raised £153.49. We have an incredible team of volunteers over the years two of our longest serving members have been on the committee for 51 and 45 years. Sadly 2025 will be our last year of fundraising. It is with heavy hearts that we have decided to stop due to the increasing hoops we have to jump through getting licences, health and safety, bank charges plus we would now need to amalgamate with another committee. It has been with the incredible support locally from residents and businesses that we have raised well over £102,000 in the years 1989-2025 which for a small community is an amazing achievement. People can still donate on line if they wish to continue supporting Cancer Research UK. We would sincerely like to thank everyone for their wonderful support over the last 54 years.

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. July winners: 1st Julie Bainbridge, 12 ; 2nd Mary Hope, 75; 3rd Gillian Graham, 61. Drawn at Stapleton WI. 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 **September** issue is **Saturday 15th August** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmeform, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me