

## July 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----July 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](mailto:Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk)

Please note my parish working days are Mondays and Fridays (plus Sundays). I will be on leave from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July; for any emergencies, please contact the rural dean, Ben Phillips, at [ben@lanercost.net](mailto:ben@lanercost.net)

Date	Sunday	Bewcastle	Stapleton	Hethersgill	Kirklington
5th July	Trinity 5	10 am HC			
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Trinity 6			10 am HC	
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Trinity 7		10 am HC		
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Trinity 8				10 am HC
2 Aug	Trinity 9	6 pm Evensong			

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

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

### Prayer of the Month

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Stapleton PCC meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 7 pm at Damhead

Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 7pm at Grainhead Farm (home of Alison Sisson).

### From the Registers: Funerals

John George Story (73) of Crook Burn, Bailey, at St Cuthbert Bewcastle on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.

Ina Margaret Murray (79) of Prior House, Kirklington, funeral and interment of ashes at St Cuthbert Kirklington on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

### Baptisms

Jamie Andrew Routledge of The Stubb, Kirklington at St Cuthbert Kirklington on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk)).

**Organist Needed.** Very sadly, our organist at Kirklington and Hethersgill churches, Eileen Robinson, is temporarily unable to play for us due to a recently sustained hip injury. 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 would be unable to attend church but would like to receive communion or at home, or would appreciate a visit from me, please do let me know. My contact details are at the top of the newsletter.

**River Lyne Catchment Group:** a number of people in the benefice have expressed concern over the state of our rivers, including the absence of fish that were once abundant, and would like to meet with others who share a similar concern. This includes all the tributaries of the Lyne, such as the Bailey Water, Bothrigg Burn, Kirk Beck, the Rae Burn and the Hether Burn, as well as the Black and White Lynes and all the smaller tributaries. If you have specific historical knowledge of the conditions of our burns and becks, including the numbers and type of fish that used to be, or perhaps still are, present at particular locations, it would be very helpful to compile these into a descriptive history of the catchment. We are also looking to start monitoring the condition of our rivers by, for example, learning how to identify the different invertebrates (river fly larvae – training would be provided). If this is an area of interest to you, or if you have knowledge you are willing to share, please do get in touch with me – my contact details are at the top of the newsletter. If there is sufficient interest we will organise a meeting for later in the summer.

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](mailto:Robert.Brown@BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk)

When I was a child I remember playing a game called Matchboxes. The challenge was to cram as many objects as possible inside a matchbox and still be able to close the lid. Favourite items included a pin, a grain of rice and a postage stamp. The record stood at 69! Being a priest and therefore for ever on the look out for sermon illustrations I saw this as a picture of how many of us for whatever reason do the same in life;

- the young Mum, already short on sleep, for ever trying to care for her growing family.
- the grey faced commuter daily battling to and from a nearby city with a bulging briefcase and smart phone to match.
- so many in the caring professions; doctors, nurses, hospital staff, teachers with a class of 30 or more boisterous children.
- many a young person at the outset of their business career seeking to make their mark

There's a telling verse from William Henry Davies:

“What is this world if full of care  
We have no time to stand and stare ? “

Most of us I guess, often try to do too much, and need some form of discipline to slow down. A routine perhaps which includes a morning coffee break or post - prandial nap. Time spent gardening. Walking. Listening to music. Even indulging in a TV Soap!

Priests are no exception.

Ours is the privilege to try to be beside people in the name of Our Lord when times are hard. A privilege which can often be all the more demanding because unlike most people who can shut their door , a priest's door is never closed. Often at the expense of family life. All the more reason then to live with some trusted discipline. A wise colleague perhaps who will listen and have the courage to say . “ You have done enough. You must rest awhile“.

More importantly still, perhaps, we need to say our prayers. In my case (alongside I guess with most other priests - either retired or still In Post) to spend time each day with Our Lord. As many of you know I do this between 7 and 8 each morning. Lying on my bed, armed with 2 mugs of tea and sometimes with one of our dogs beside me pretending she is saying her prayers too! I begin by saying Morning Prayer. The liturgical equivalent of a good breakfast, with its regular fare of Bible and prayer. Then, like those first disciples, I bring to Our Lord those for whom I have a special love. Or care. (Currently 139!) One by one I name each one and leave them with him. Then a time just to reflect and to be with my thoughts. Everything I ever write or pray is born in this way.

Last I commend myself with all my personal agenda into God's hands , asking that He will bless and guide me in all I do or say.

As the old Hymn puts it

“ Bringing all my burdens, sorrow sin and care.  
At thy feet I lay them and I leave them there. “

My discipline may not be yours, but perhaps it's a pattern you could adapt.

I end with another picture. This time of a much loved saintly GP whom we first met in Stevenage New Town 63 years ago when I was cutting my teeth as a young curate. She had the daunting task of trying to be a doctor with bringing up a young family. The only place where she could say her prayers was in the Loo. Whenever a child knocked on the door she would reply “Darling, I'm busy at the moment. I'll be with you shortly”. She was one of God's saints, hugely loved and incidentally lived to a ripe old age!

Bishop John

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**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 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 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance.** Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm Stapleton WI** at Stapleton Public Hall. Joyce Waugh will help members to understand how to use the defibrillator. All welcome.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10 am – 1 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Reiver's Breakfast/Brunch in Roadhead Hall.** Followed by Celebration for up dating of Family Shields. £10 per Person. Profits in aid of Roadhead Hall. Raffle. Everyone welcome

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July Kirklington & District WI**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 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 27<sup>th</sup> July 8 pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill.** All welcome to come along and play or listen.

### **Claiming Dates**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 7.30 pm Hethersgill Hall Committee Hoe Down at Hethersgill Parish Hall.** Details Christine 07790 302016

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lisa.wilson@nwsynod.co.uk)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Gordon Brown**

**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](mailto:ros.campbell@naturalengland.org.uk) 07570 370775

**Stapleton Knit and Natter Group:** will start again on 8<sup>th</sup> 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

## July 2026 NEWS AND THANKS----- July 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.

**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. June winners: 1<sup>st</sup>** Linda Little, 93; **2<sup>nd</sup>** Louise Millington, 72; **3<sup>rd</sup>** Neil Main, 54. Drawn at Hall meeting. Thank you for all your support

**Stapleton Public Hall** can be booked or enquiries made by email [bookings@stapletonpublichall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.Bewcastle.com/news-events), [www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice](http://www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk/parish-notice)

Deadline for the **August** issue is **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or [triciacoombe@damhead.me](mailto:triciacoombe@damhead.me)