

September 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----September 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
6th Sept	Trinity 14			10 am HC	
13th Sept	Trinity 15		10 am HC		
20th Sept	Trinity 16				10 am Family Service
27th Sept	Trinity 17	6 pm Evensong			
4th Oct	Trinity 18			10 am Harvest Thanksgiving	

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

Almighty God, who art the essence of all things, beyond space and time and yet within them; manifest thyself unto us who feel after thee, seeking thy light amid the shadows of ignorance. Recall us from our errors and reach forth thine right hand to help us, who, without thee, cannot come to thee and who desire nothing beside thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*John Scotus Eriugena, 9th C Irish scholar*)

From the Registers: Funerals

Peggy Bright (88) of the Old School House, Bailey at St Cuthbert, Bewcastle on Wednesday 12th August 2026

Church Notices

Saturday 5th September 2pm 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

Sunday 20th September 10 am Family Service at St Cuthbert, Kirklington. Please come along and join in. Children of all ages (0 – 100) welcome

Friday 9th October 7 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper 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

Sunday 11th October 12noon - Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC 'Harvest Lunch' at Hethersgill Parish Hall. £12 per person (under 5's free). Please bring your own plate, dish, mug and cutlery, thank you. To book please contact either Irene Armstrong t: 01228 675389, Margaret Story t: 01228 675652 or Sandra Tuffin t: 01228 675510. All welcome.

Monday 2nd November at 7pm Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC Meeting at Netheronsett Farm

Baptism and Confirmation 2026. I will be running a course of baptism/confirmation preparation classes at Greenholme, Bewcastle on Fridays (4.30-6pm) in the Autumn. If you or someone you know is interested, please get in touch (robert.brown@bewcastlehouseofprayer.org.uk or 016977 48438). More details are available online on the Bewcastle House of Prayer website (www.BewcastleHouseOfPrayer.org.uk).

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

Maybe it was a midlife crisis, but some 50 years ago I had a sudden urge to learn to windsurf. For years we had holidayed by the sea and I had envied those athletic figures skimming across the waves like fire flies. So the family bought me a surfboard. We happened also to have a close friend who was Publicity Manager for J and B Rare Scotch Whisky. "We'll make you a sail" he said.. "All you need to do is to bat up and down, and those watching you will be reminded that they should resort to a nearby bar for a dram!" All looked promising. Sadly the reality proved different!

Over a period of 4 years seldom did I manage to get my sail out of the water, and on the rare occasions when I did, my progress was so slow that I was once overtaken by a pedalo! The family were undoubtedly relieved when finally I decided to call it a day. Unknown to me they had even organised a rota to ensure that in case of disaster always one of them would be around to alert the Life Guard!. I spent many hours on that surfboard, and like many a Cleric spent an equal time wondering if there could be some message which usefully I could share from a pulpit or in a Newsletter. What follow are three thoughts which I leave you to enjoy or to ignore.

First.. As with my initial desire "to have a go", so I guess some might see the Church. They are inspired perhaps by someone whose Faith and sheer "Goodness" is self-evident. Maybe one of the big time Saints - ancient or modern, or even a local priest whose ministry of faithful love and care is quietly inspirational. So, bravely they attend a Church - a Carol Service, a wedding, Christening or Funeral which turns out to be "Spot On" and all makes sense. They decide to give God a whirl. For a while all goes well and they actually enjoy it. But as time goes by enthusiasm fades. They read in the press of yet another scandal - most likely about safe guarding.. They listen to the news and just cannot square a Compassionate God with stories (perhaps personal) about injustice, cruelty and suffering.

They recognise within themselves occasions when maybe they too have got it wrong. They come to Church and it's a bad day. The Vicar's off form. They know none of the hymns and when it comes to reciting the Creed they find themselves thinking "This is all beyond me. I'll give it a miss for a while." And they do. And yet There's always a blessed "And yet" when it comes to God! Deep down they can never forget that with all their questionings and weaknesses there were times too when undoubtedly God did seem real. To touch and to speak. To inspire, to comfort and to care. Times when they just KNEW that there is more to life than meets the eye, and somehow they had touched it.

So they decide still to keep an open mind, travelling on in the mysterious belief that just maybe God really is, and that whatever happens to all of us matters to Him deeply. There's a large part of me in all that, which is why I so identify with those who in today's language are often called "Cultural Christians." and keep an open mind. They may still worship - irregularly - but remain puzzled about how it can be that God exists, and that He travels with each one of us every day of our life whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe about Him or can't.

Perhaps too, many of them (like me) would also say that on those occasions when it does ring true they experience a power greater than themselves enabling them to do and to be more than ever they could imagine on their own. For me such people are just as much members of God's family as those who never miss a Sunday's worship. As loved and important to Him as the traditional saints. Certainly there is room in the Church I suggest for everyone. For sceptic and Cultural Christian just as much as for those who feel secure in their faith.

Together we travel enriched and encouraged by our different experiences and understandings. As diverse, and at times as contrary, as any human family. Perhaps that's one of the reasons why the vocation of priesthood is so interesting!

I wonder where you stand in it all this?

..... And to think all that started on my windsurf!

Bishop John.

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

Tuesday 1st 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.

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

Saturday 5th September 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Saturday 5th September 7.30 pm at the Black Lion Live music with Graham Brown (rock guitarist)

Tuesday 8th September Kirklington & District WI

Wednesday 9th September 7.30 pm Stapleton WI at Stapleton Public Hall. Carolyn Brough: Walk the Camino Santiago: Talk with slides. All welcome

Saturday 12th September the Heilk Moon Leek Show at the black Lion

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 Rev Lisa Moore Wilson lisa.wilson@nwsynod.co.uk

Thursday 17th September 8 pm Stapleton Bowling Club AGM.

Saturday 19th September 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Gordon Brown. £6 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Bar & Raffle. All welcome. Enquiries to 01228 675389

Sunday 20th 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

Sunday 20th September 11 am Bewcastle Heritage Society. Cumbria Wildlife Trust. (tbc)

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

Thursday 24th September 8 pm Stapleton Carpet Bowling. All welcome

Monday 28th September 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen.

Wednesday 30th September 6 pm River Lyne Catchment Public Meeting at Roadhead Hall Anyone with an interest in the River Lyne and its tributaries is invited to this public meeting. The catchment includes the Black and White Lynes, the Bailey Water, the Rae Burn, the Hether Burn and all the other smaller tributaries that ultimately flow into the Lyne. This is a meeting to meet others who share an interest in the river(s) or have knowledge of historic conditions they would like to share, and to hear from those with local fishing experience. Also to explore possible future ways of monitoring conditions to obtain reliable data on which to base evidence, such as, for example, measuring river flows, learning how to map river corridor habitats and sample invertebrates (freshwater bugs), and hear from others in the county who already have experience on their own local rivers. Everyone is welcome. The meeting is expected to last an hour or so. Any questions, please contact Robert Brown on Robert.brown@Hydrology.UK.com (016977 48438) or Camilla Toulmin on camilla.toulmin@iied.org (07939 155474)

Claiming Dates

Friday 9th October 7 pm Stapleton PCC Harvest Supper 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

Sunday 11th October 12noon - Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC 'Harvest Lunch' at Hethersgill Parish Hall. £12 per person (under 5's free). Please bring your own plate, dish, mug and cutlery, thank you. To book please contact either Irene Armstrong t: 01228 675389, Margaret Story t: 01228 675652 or Sandra Tuffin t: 01228 675510. All welcome.

Saturday 17th October Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Keith Robertson

Saturday 31st October 2-4 pm Hethersgill Social Committee Hallowe'en Party. Details Christine 07790 302016

Saturday 31st October 7.30 pm Hallowe'en Party at the Black Lion, live music from James Falder

Saturday 21st November 2 pm Stapleton PCC Christmas Fair at Stapleton Public Hall. Stalls include cakes and preserves, tombola, raffles and competition and singing by the children from Shankhill School. Offers to help or donations for stalls greatly appreciated. Contact any member of the PCC.

Saturday 28th November 5 pm Hethersgill Christmas Concert in Hethersgill Parish Hall Dalston Male Voice Choir plus some special guests. £6, primary school children free, includes a glass of mulled wine & mince pie

Saturday 5th December 10am- noon Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC 'Christmas Coffee Morning' at Hethersgill Parish Hall. Christmas wreaths will be available to purchase (orders for Christmas wreaths can be placed). Produce Table. For further details please contact either Margaret Story t: 01228 675652, Sandra Tuffin t: 01228 675510 or Irene Armstrong 01228 675389. All welcome.

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: Every Tuesday at Stapleton Hall Carol 01697 543094 (starts 8th Sept)

Ladies Darts Reunion: 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Black Lion

Craft Afternoon: Every Wednesday 1 pm at the Black Lion

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 the month 7.30 pm at Stapleton Hall

Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall

Carpet Bowling: Every Thursday 8 pm in Stapleton Hall (starting 24th Sept)

Badminton & Table Tennis: Every Thursday 7.30 – 9 pm at Hethersgill Hall. Contact Andy Little 07765 244071

Coffee Morning & bingo: Last Friday of the month at the Black Lion

Musicians Jam Session: Last Saturday of the month at the Black Lion

Arthur's Quiz: First Sunday of the month 7 pm at the Black Lion Teams up to 5, £2 entry

September 2026 NEWS AND THANKS----- September 2026

Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC would like to thank all who attended and supported the 'Strawberry Tea' on the afternoon of Saturday 20th June. A special thank you to Bishop John Richardson and his wife Felicity-Anne, who kindly judged the children's competition. The event was a delightful social occasion, enjoyed by all. Thanks are extended to all.

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.

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. August winners: 1st, James Elliott, 96; **2nd** Frank Heaton, 85; **3rd** Grant Sisson, 57. 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 **October** issue is **Saturday 19th September** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmfed, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me