

October 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----October 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
4th Oct	Trinity 18			10 am Harvest Thanksgiving	
11th Oct	Trinity 19		10 am Harvest Thanksgiving		
18th Oct	Trinity 20				10 am HC
25 Oct	Bible Sunday	10 am HC			
1st Nov	All Saints			10 am All Saints And All Souls	

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

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen. (*Collect for the 21st Sunday after Trinity*)

From the Registers: Wedding

Monica Powley and Harry Walker on Saturday 22nd August 2026 at St Cuthbert, Kirklington

Funerals

Doreen Davidson (89) formerly of Fordlands, Hethersgill, at St Mary Hethersgill on Monday 24th August

Herbert Slack (88) of White Close, Stapleton, at St Mary Stapleton on Friday 28th August

Church Notices

Sunday 4th October 2- 4pm at Greenholme, Bewcastle Community Apple Pressing Day Bring as many apples as you can manage and some containers to take away the juice. We'll make use of any apples you don't need. Everyone is welcome to come and join in this fun and sociable afternoon, and enjoy a cup of fresh apple juice. There is no charge.

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 48301/48833 Please bring plate, cutlery, mug. All welcome

Sunday 11th October 12 noon 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 19th October 7pm Stapleton PCC Meeting

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

Sunday 1st November – All Saints and All Souls. This year, for the first time, we are combining our usual All Saints service with an All Souls service. So we are inviting anyone who has lost a loved one to come and light a candle for them in this special service at Hethersgill church. This is a time to remember those we have loved that are no longer with us, and to say a prayer for them. They may have died recently, or many years ago, it doesn't matter – come and remember them, and quietly give thanks to God for all they have meant to you. The service is open to everyone. Candles will be provided.

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

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Dear Friends,

I remember the day we first moved to this area, in August 2008. We were unloading our goods from a borrowed horsebox that was packed to the brim in the front drive of our newly rented accommodation, when a tractor drove past the front of the house. I looked up to see it stopping. The farmer turned off the engine and climbed out of the cab. Oh dear, I thought, this doesn't look good. In our previous home I was used to farmers that kept themselves to themselves. The only time they spoke to you was if they had something they wanted you to know – usually not complimentary. If you waved at them while driving, you rarely got a response other than a stare. It took them a long time to build up any level of trust in you, and you had to work hard to earn it. There were, of course, a few friendly exceptions, and they stood out for that reason. They would stop, chat and give you the time of day. But it was unusual, and only a handful or so in a long dale.

So when the tractor stopped outside our new residence, I expected the worst. Perhaps a warning about keeping our dog out of the fields, or telling us never to park on the verge side and hinder machinery or other farm traffic on the road. Instead, he came towards me with his big hand outstretched and a broad smile. 'Welcome', he said, 'I'm so-and-so from the farm just along the lane here.' He asked who we were, where we had come from, and what we did. I almost fainted. I never expected such a friendly greeting from anyone on our first day, let alone a farmer. But there he was, stopping his work to make some strangers feel welcome.

That moment of kindness has stayed with me for these last 18 years, and I don't suppose I will ever forget it. It completely changed my entire expectation of life in our new home. He wouldn't have known that – he was just doing what he did, being friendly and welcoming. But its impact was immense. In fact it set the tone for much of what was to come. Time and again I have found a friendly welcome where I didn't expect it. Perhaps that says more about me and the previous places I have lived, but we have been shown kindness and acceptance by so many people throughout the benefice since we moved here.

I'm remembering this now because we recently had a reading from the Bible in church in which St Paul commands us to 'extend hospitality to strangers' (Rom 12:13). It brought to mind that incident all those years ago, and the countless others besides. The Bible speaks of hospitality as a mark of Christian discipleship. Of course it's not exclusive to Christianity – there are many other cultures around the world where hospitality to strangers is of the utmost importance – even if it causes incredible inconvenience, such as giving the last morsel of food in the house. But it is one of the hallmarks of being a follower of Christ, to welcome the stranger, to feed, clothe and look after them, regardless of their origin, culture, language, creed or colour, or even how they come to be here. In fact I would go so far as to say that we cannot think of ourselves as a disciple of Christ's, or call ourselves 'Christian', if we turn our backs on those in need of hospitality.

The reason for this, and Paul's command, which is the same as Jesus' command to love our neighbour as ourselves (remember the question he was then asked, 'and who is my neighbour?', and his response was to tell the story of the Good Samaritan), is simple. It is because we have become strangers to God and to each other, but, totally undeservingly, and without any merit whatsoever, God has extended his hospitality to us in Jesus. We are welcomed into God's presence through the costly gift of his only Son. We are invited to sit at his banqueting table and receive the riches of his feast, the foretaste of which is Holy Communion. It is for this reason we are to offer the same hospitality that we have received. In fact, Jesus says of hospitality 'when you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.' To refuse to give hospitality, then, is like slapping God in the face, leaving him outside in the cold, hungry, thirsty, and sick. Instead, we are invited to welcome the stranger with joy. You never know, it may an angel in disguise, or even Christ himself. So our faith is our politics, and our politics expresses our faith, which is, after all, just an expression of the way we treat each other. If it doesn't, our faith is worthless.

Your friend and priest,

Robert

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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)

Saturday 3rd October 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Sunday 4th October 2-4pm Community Apple Pressing Day at Greenholme, Bewcastle. Bring as many apples as you can manage and some containers to take away the juice. We'll make use of any apples you don't need. Everyone is welcome to come and join in this fun and sociable afternoon, and enjoy a cup of fresh apple juice. There is no charge.

Tuesday 6th October 11 am – 2 pm Bewcastle Mini Hub at Roadhead Hall. Come for a chat and free coffee or tea and biscuits in the supper room. Everyone 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 48301/48833 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.

Tuesday 13th October Kirklington & District WI

Wednesday 14th October 7.30 pm Stapleton WI at Stapleton Public Hall. AGM & Bingo night. All welcome

Friday 16th October 6 pm City Harvest Festival Service at Borderway Mart. All welcome

Saturday 17th October 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Keith Robertson. £6 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Bar & Raffle. All welcome. Enquiries to 01228 675389

Sunday 18th 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 20th October 7.30 pm Bewcastle Heritage Society Limeburning & Limekilns with Graham Brooks

Tuesday 20th October 7pm Community Meeting at Hethersgill Parish Hall with a presentation and latest update on the proposed National Grid Cross Border connection project from the North Carlisle/Cumbria Against Pylons and Substation group. There will be a Q and A session at the end of the presentation. Please come along and find out how this huge project will impact our local area during the construction phase of 5-10 years and permanently change all of our rural communities forever. All welcome.

Monday 26th October 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen

Tuesday 27th October 10.30 -2.30 pm The Knowe URC Poetry & Prose Group at Bellingham URC : poetry, reflection, lunch & time to explore the town. All welcome. Free to attend - info from lisa.wilson@nwsynod.org.uk

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

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

Claiming Dates

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 21st November 7.30 – 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Keith Robertson

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.

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

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
Yoga: Every Thursday 6 pm in Hethersgill Parish Hall
Carpet Bowling: Every Thursday 8 pm in Stapleton Hall
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

October 2026 NEWS AND THANKS-----October 2026

Now here's some good news about Bewcastle churchyard – the management regime is being shifted so that it can become a more appropriate, safe and enjoyable place to visit. By rewilding the current rough-cut grass that has become invaded by docks and creeping buttercup and by replacing that with native, traditional meadow flowers and grasses we plan to create a "living sanctuary" that boosts local biodiversity while maintaining a respectful, spiritual, tranquil space for remembrance and reflection. It should be safer too because we will mow paths through the new growth so that visitors can safely reach each headstone, while as it is currently there is a risk of tripping over fallen headstones hidden in the long grass. The process will start this year with the sowing of yellow rattle to weaken the grass in preparation for sowing seed mixes in spring next year. The journey to maturity, as gardeners know, will take several years so don't expect to see the vibrant colourful result instantly. We will, with the help of local community groups, be monitoring the changes – we believe improvements – in biodiversity over the seasons, as wildlife should soon find the new space offers a better home. Recently we have had a survey of every headstone and every tree for safety – all headstones and but one tree are deemed safe with a plan for the tree to be felled by the council while major repairs to the walls have been made too. Watch out for more detailed information coming soon in the churchyard and on the Bewcastle.com website.

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.

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. September winners: 1st, Audrey Stockdale, 38; **2nd** Christine Faulder, 39; **3rd** Gareth Edwards, 42. Drawn at Hethersgill Parish Hall meeting. 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 **November** issue is **Saturday 17th October** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholmford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me