

November 2026 -----BENEFICE NEWS-----November 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
1st Nov	All Saints			10 am All Saints And All Souls	
8th Nov	Remembrance	10.55 am Remembrance			10.55 am Remembrance
15th Nov	2 nd before Advent		10 am HC		
22 nd Nov	Christ the King				10 am HC
29th Nov	Advent	10 am HC			
6th Dec	Advent 2			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

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the king of all; govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gently rule, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*Collect for the 3rd Sunday before Advent*)

From the Registers: Wedding

Jessica Phillips and Robin Wigham on Saturday 17th October 2026 at St Cuthbert, Kirklington

Church Notices

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.

Monday 2nd November, 7pm, Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC at Nether Onset Farm

Monday 9th November, 7pm, Bewcastle PCC at Murray Holme

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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Two bits of good news this month. A third perhaps more sobering.

I have just been given my Blue Badge. Assisted by a kindly neighbour who knows about these things I filled in a mammoth form which proved successful. From now on, whilst obeying all the rules, parking will be a lot easier, and I am really grateful.

Second. When we went on holiday this year I was given assisted parking. It was brilliant. From the moment we checked in there was a smiley person to help me - conveying me down all those long passages (often at speed) in conveyances as varied as a traditional wheelchair to something that looked more like a souped-up golfing buggy. On one occasion in a vehicle so smart it resembled a Pope Mobile!

Through Passport Control with all its current Finger Printing procedures, and passengers who only minutes before had been competing like Alley Cats to be first in the queue. Their faces were a picture!

And I LOVED it!

That's the good news.

The more sobering news is remembering that such privileges are given only to those who need them. In my own case because over the last two years my balance has gone and I have little sensation in my feet. Perhaps not surprisingly the DVLA has withdrawn my driving licence, which is devastating. (Not least because Felicity Anne now has to do all the driving). Getting to my feet is a problem, as is standing unsupported for any length of time without support. I now walk with 2 sticks which means it is almost impossible to carry any shopping. In church even the little journey from pew to the altar rail to make my communion can be hazardous.

I still love being allowed to take services but have to do so seated. And I am looking forward to conducting our Remembrance Service again this year. And so on.....

The reaction of all around has been wonderful - most especially my family who understand totally and plead with me not to clear the table (like me they don't want broken plates and glasses) But the reaction of passers-by has also been amazing. Every time for example, I go into Brampton I am met with courtesy and a smile. Most memorable so far was an encounter with an elderly lady on a street corner whom I had never met before who just paused, smiled and said " You go first my love. "

Our Lord would have been very proud of her!

So..... Another letter about growing old with which I guess many of you will be only too familiar.

But written not in anger or complaint. Rather In a spirit of sharing. Most importantly of all perhaps in a sense of gratitude for the constant love, patience and understanding of all around me - not least in this Benefice. So thank you!

I shall be 90 on July 11th next year! Perhaps you could send a card? preferably rude or cheerful! Truly I have so much for which to be grateful - much of it due to you.

Yours (a bit wrinkly but with still with a smile).

Bishop John

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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

Tuesday 3rd November 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.

Saturday 7th November 7.30 pm Stapleton Public Hall Dance. Details Mary Thompson 016977 48379

Tuesday 10th November Kirklington & District WI

Wednesday 11th November 7.30 pm Stapleton WI at Stapleton Public Hall. Mish Tooby: move it or lose it

Friday 13th November 7.30 pm Hethersgill Social Committee invite you to a 70s/80s party night at Hethersgill village hall. (fancy dress optional) Music by James Falder, Admission £6. Bar Raffle. Food available to purchase between 7.30 – 9 pm by JT Catering (burgers/sausage rolls etc. £5) All welcome Enquiries or to book call 07790 302016

Sunday 15th November 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

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. There will be children's games and some extra stalls. 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 Denis Westmorland. £6 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Bar & Raffle. All welcome. Enquiries to 01228 675389

Thursday 26th – Monday 30th November 10 – 5 pm Christmas Fair at Dacre Hall, Lanercost. Admission £1

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. All welcome

Monday 30th November 8pm Folk tunes sessions at the Black Lion, Hethersgill. All welcome to come along and play or listen.

Claiming Dates

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

Sunday 6th December 2 – 4 pm. Hethersgill Social Committee Children's Christmas Party at Hethersgill Village Hall. £3 per child (under 2s free). Refreshments included. All children must be accompanied by an adult. To book call Lucy 07768 291158

Tuesday 8th December 7pm Kirklington with Hethersgill PCC 'Fashion Show' presented by Christine Ackerley of Yellow Door, Brampton at Hethersgill Parish Hall. Entry by ticket - £10, to include a glass of Prosecco (or non-alcoholic fizz) and light refreshments. Tickets need to be booked in advance of the event (these can be paid for at the door), to book a ticket please contact either Margaret Story t: 01228 675652 m: 07539 939246 or Alison Sisson t: 01228 675378 m: 07749 297177, . All welcome.

Saturday 19th December 7.30 -- 11 pm Hethersgill Parish Hall Dance with Brian Griffin

Sunday 27th December Live Music with Spud at the Black Lion

Friday 22nd January 2027 Stapleton PCC Burns Night and Dancing at Stapleton Public Hall. . Supper with a light touch of Burns. Tickets £12.50 (under 12s free) to include 2 courses and a nip of whisky. Haggis, neeps & tatties, or steak pie/veggie option. Bar available. Details and tickets from Catherine 016977 48322/07746 286311 or Tricia 016977 48833 or any member of the PCC.

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 Contact Gillian Whigham 07763 941728

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 10 am 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

November 2026 NEWS AND THANKS-----November 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.

St Mary, Stapleton PCC would like to thank everyone who came to the Harvest Supper, and brought raffle prizes, puddings and helped to make the evening such a success. They are very grateful for your support.

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.October winners: 1st, Ian Armstrong, 95; 2nd Margaret Storey, 55; 3rd Neil Main Drawn at Stapleton WI 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 **December** issue is **Saturday 14th November** to Tricia Coombe, Damhead, Lyneholme Ford, Roweltown, CA6 6LQ. 016977 48833 or triciacoombe@damhead.me