

St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

**Sunday
17th December
at 6pm**

All are warmly welcome



**Beetham
Village
Carol Singing**

**Wednesday 20th December
around Slackhead**

**Thursday 21st December
around Beetham**

**Carol singers always welcome to join
Please meet in the Church Car Park at 6pm
Carol sheets will be provided
Wear warm waterproof clothing and bring a torch!**

All donations will go to the Salvation Army

Brightening Beetham

**Saturday 2nd December
at 4pm**

Come and help with The
Big Switch-On of the
churchyard & village trees
to Brighten Beetham for
December

Join us from 3.45pm at
Beetham Church for
music, mince pies
and mulled wine!

St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Everyone is invited to our CHRISTingle

**Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th
December
at 4pm**

In aid of
The
Children's
Society

The
Children's
Society

With grateful thanks to Booths
Milnthorpe for supplying the oranges

THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

DECEMBER 2023

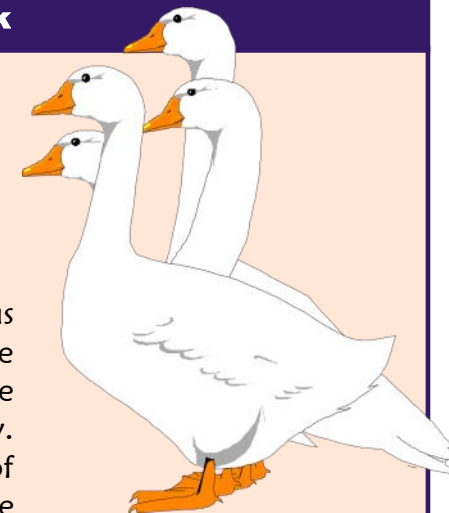
www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat.

Please put a penny in the old man's hat.

If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do.

If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you.



I'm sure we do not need that centuries-old nursery rhyme to remind us that Christmas is indeed coming, even though there is little evidence these days of geese being fattened for up-coming Christmas dinners, the goose having been largely replaced in our own time by the ubiquitous turkey. That said, even though, as I write this, we are still in the last week of November, the signs of the coming Christmas season are everywhere to be seen; Christmas lights are already in place and twinkling in town-centres; shop windows are full of Christmas displays aimed at attracting early Christmas shoppers young and old; even in our own churchyard Christmas trees are already in place and the glass-fronted cabinet by the side of the church door is there ready and waiting to be populated by the characters of the Nativity. Hardly surprising then that one of our local supermarkets has adopted, I notice, as its Christmas by-line the phrase 'Christmas has arrived'. "And ahead of time", some of us might groan, whilst nevertheless joining in the mad and merry dash towards 25th December. Yes, love it or hate it, Christmas is coming and nothing is going to stop it!

The old nursery rhyme with which I prefaced my remarks, however, seems to me to sound a more serious note when it goes on to urge us to put a penny, or indeed a half-penny, in the old man's hat. The old man is presumably a beggar and as such reminds us that as we enter the flurry of preparations for Christmas, we should be mindful of those in our world, in our nation and in our own community for whom the prospect of Christmas is daunting and challenging; mindful of those for whom at Christmas there will be no shelter, no warmth, no food, no cheer. It is for such communities and individuals that the nursery rhyme urges us to have a care, to spare even a very small amount, even, if you like, a modest 'ha'penny'. None of us can possibly respond to the many competing good causes which appeal for our support at Christmas, but we can all surely respond in a positive, albeit modest way, to at least one local, regional, national or indeed international organisation whose work we feel disposed to support.

But we need also to remember that there are many people whose needs are not material – the chronically and terminally ill, the old and infirm confined to their homes, the destitute, the lonely, the bereaved, those whose lives for whatever reason have fallen apart. Such people do not need our 'penny' or our 'half-penny' but rather a little of our precious time in and around the Christmas season. Important, therefore, as the mad busy-ness of the festive season overtakes us, that we should not forget those for whom the best of Christmas presents might be an hour of our time.

Finally, however, in our wish to be supportive of those in need, we ourselves need to be sensitive and remember that there are indeed those who genuinely wish to be left alone, even at Christmas-time, and that we do them no favours if we seek to coerce them into unwanted festive merriment.

Happy Christmas. David Peacock

Letter from The Curate

Something's coming...

Anyone else a Musical Theatre fan? Recognise that line as the title of a song from *West Side Story*? It comes at a pivotal point in the story when the male lead, Tony, realises his gang warfare lifestyle isn't for him anymore and looks with anticipation and hope for a better future. He feels that there's an opportunity for change. His heart is preparing for something new.

He sings:
Something's coming, something good if I can wait
Something's coming, I don't know what it is, but it's gonna be great
I got a feeling there's a miracle due
Gonna come true, coming to me

Something's coming...
December is here. Advent is upon us. Something is definitely coming! And anyone would think that this time of preparation for Christmas started a long while ago given the length of time that festive items have lined the shop shelves and glistened in their windows. Although opinions vary on when Christmas displays should appear or when people should put up their Christmas trees, I can't help but enjoy the fact that it somehow re-iterates that this is a festival to be well prepared for... to really look forward to... to get very excited about! It doesn't necessarily mean we need to start spending money on it from September, but it does mean that we can be spending our hearts on preparing ourselves for a time of such glorious celebration. Through the season of Advent as we look to the real meaning of Christmas, we prepare ourselves for celebrating something wonderful, something miraculous, something life-changing...

And (unlike in the song) you don't even have to wait for it, because we all know that it has actually already come. Around 2000 years ago, God's son was miraculously born into a world that needed rescuing. Jesus was the one sent to fulfil (as another song goes) 'peace on earth, mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled', and he has the power to transform our hearts with the goodness that he brings. Like Tony sensed in *West Side Story*, let us sense too... There *is* an opportunity for change. There *is* a better future. There *is* hope. There *is* a miracle. It *is* great. It *is* coming ...to *you*!

To end, I'm going to jump on the premature bandwagon and remind us of some (*more* song) words that some of us might not be ready for seasonally, but that echo true throughout the year.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing.

With love & prayers for a blessed Advent & Christmastime,
Hannah

CONTACTS FOR THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

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Licensed Lay Minister	Chris Roberts	015395 63019	lainyandchris@aol.com
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Churchwarden	Dianne Lomax	015395 62648	diannelomax@btinternet.com
Churchwarden/Gateway	Jenny Marks	015395 62559	jenny.marks@btinternet.com
PCC Treasurer	John Lomax	015395 62648	j.d.lomax@btinternet.com
Beetham C of E School	Abi Johnson	015395 62515	head@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk

Please do be in touch with Andrew you would like to receive the parish email, if there is any support or encouragement he can offer, if you would have any questions about services church life or the Christian faith, or if you would like anyone or anything remembered in prayer. He would be very pleased to hear from you.



Church Grand Hamper Raffle

Congratulations to all the winners of the 18 hampers, drawn at the School Winter Fair on 25th November - and particularly to Revd Andrew for winning the First Prize Hamper! Many thanks go to all who donated contents for the hampers, and to the team of willing volunteers who packed, wrapped, ribboned and transported the hampers, raising over £900 for church funds

A list of all the winners can be found on our church website



We are delighted to announce that a grant of £2,000 has been awarded for the church reordering project from The Rank Foundation Pebble grant scheme. We are immensely grateful to Rank for their generosity

The Rank Foundation is the philanthropic legacy of Joseph Arthur Rank (1888-1972) who aimed to improve lives and communities by developing leadership and promoting enterprise. The Foundation combines an offer of intellectual, social and financial capital to maximise its impact across the UK. Find out more at rankfoundation.com or follow @RankFoundation

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 3rd December
at 6.00pm

*A service of hope and expectation
as through words, hymns and
music we look ahead to Christmas
and renew our trust in God who
promises to be with us.*



Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 14th January

6.00pm

*'So most gracious Lord, may we,
evermore be led to thee.'*



Christmas Cards

Christmas cards are now available in church depicting the Nativity scene created by Paul McDowell, detail from our stained glass window of the Madonna and Child, and two paintings of Beetham by local artist Christopher Murphy



Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal

Calling all of Santa's helpers. If you could manage an extra new toy, for any age, it would be appreciated so much. If you could leave it in Church, or better still Bela House Beetham where one of his little helpers pops in. SHHHHH...

Thank you so much. Lapland extension 07725580095

[Toys must be new, and can include dolls, teddy bears, bath toys, cars, colouring sets, books, puzzles, family CDs and DVDs, stationery and educational games]



St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

*O come let us
adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

MIDNIGHT MASS

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December
11.30 p.m.

MORNING EUCHARIST

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December
11.00 a.m.



Blue Christmas

*A reflective service for those who experience
sadness and loss at this time of year*

Thurs 21st Dec // 4pm // Storth Village Church



St Thomas' Milnthorpe

Carols ON THE GREEN Milnthorpe

Friday 22nd December
10.00 am

with Carnforth
Salvation Army
Brass Band

Do stay for Coffee, Tea
and Mince Pies
afterwards

All welcome!



**Blackburn
PEOPLE'S Choir**

Blackburn People's Choir & South Lakes Acappella,
directed by Jeff Borradaile, present

A Christmas Celebration
in Beetham Church
at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th December

Tickets £15 from the Friends of Beetham Church Committee or via Ticketsource






Brain of Beetham Quiz

This month our Quizmaster Clive Holden asks us all about 'Church and clergy'

- Who can be number one, but never second or third ?
- Who was a jazz pianist and composer?
- Which part of the church sounds rascally ?
- Who was on the street for more than fifty years ?
- Who was a Yorkshire Primrose ?
- Who is always before the rest ?
- Who was familiar with Homer, but not with Bart, Marge and Liza ?
- Was partnered by Louis Cristillo ?
- Who had Tinker as an assistant ?
- What provides 24 or 25 sheets per singer ?




Answers to the November edition 'Insects' quiz:-

- 1) Vaughan Williams wrote 'The **Wasps**' overture.
- 2) They were **Moth**'s friends in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.
- 3) Brian the **Snail** was in 'The Magic Roundabout'.
- 4) Those saved by parachute can join the **Caterpillar** Club.
- 5) A **praying mantis**.
- 6) A **spider** (long cue) used in snooker.
- 7) A Diet of **Worms** was not good for Luther.
- 8) An **inchworm** should ideally be 2.54 cms in length.
- 9) A **comma** (butterfly) can interrupt you in mid-sentence.
- 10) The **Crickets** were Buddy Holly's backing group

Storm Debi

On Monday 13th November Storm Debi hit Beetham. The church pergola was battered by the wind and rain and at risk of collapsing. The path from the church to The Wheatsheaf was closed off for safety. Our thanks go to Dallam Tower Estate for their repairs to the structure to stand it upright again, to enable the path to be reopened. Further work will be carried out in the Spring



Beetham Church Handbellringers

The Handbellringers dug out their Christmas jumpers early this year as they performed their first Christmas 'gig' at Underbarrow WI on 8th November! The audience was invited to sing along to the carols, and then there was a chance for the WI members to have a go at ringing (and jingling) Jingle Bells. After a couple of attempts it was a recognisable tune, so well done to everyone that took part!

The ringers will next be going to Arnside Methodist Church, Croftside, Elmsfield House, Beetham Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, and Crook WI

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday was marked with the Act of Remembrance at the Beetham War Memorial, led by the Revd Andrew Norman. The Beetham Roll of Honour was read by John Lomax and the Royal British Legion flag was carried by Sheila Ashburner. Wreaths were laid on behalf of The Royal British Legion, Westmorland and Furness Council, Beetham Parish Council, Beetham CE School, Beetham WI and Beetham Church. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Phil Marks and Brenda Bentley, marking the beginning and end of the two minute silence

The poppies and 'There but not there' transparent soldier effigies in the church pews once again served as a reminder of those from Beetham who died in the Great War, and the continuing loss of life in wars to the present day

We will remember them







Edith Anice


We are delighted to welcome Leslie Lockyear to the village and offer congratulations on opening her shop 'Edith Anice' in the Old Beetham Post Office

Specialising in interiors, Leslie's shop is welcoming and full of beautiful gifts and perfume. Leslie also plans to open the upstairs Café early next year

The shop is currently open on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. It will also be open on additional days in the run up to Christmas so please keep your eyes on the noticeboard in the shop window for further opening times

More details of the shop can be found on Instagram @edithanice





'MAY YOU NEVER BE TOO GROWN UP TO SEARCH THE SKIES ON CHRISTMAS EVE' *Unknown*

This year has truly flown by, the drummer beating the rhythm that picks up the pace, and it is Christmas time once again. We have been busy working on our Christmas music since mid September, with the odd foray into 'Thunderbird' territory and other future pieces, just to keep us sane... sorry on track for next year. But still, there is something so uplifting about Christmas music, something unique. The tradition and comfort of carols, the memories associated with familiar songs heard across the years that evoke and awaken the spirit of Christmas. It is always a joy to play at this time of year. Christmas and bands are timelessly entwined. That first sound of a much loved Carol played by the brass section reaches deep into our musical psyche. Everyone listening never seem to hear the little blips that may occur, or the odd missed note or late or early entrances. It is all about the magic and mistletoe.

'CHRISTMAS ISN'T JUST A DAY, IT IS A FRAME OF MIND' *Miracle on 34th Street*

So we will be busy playing around and about, and by the time you read this we may have performed twice already. On the 1st of December at 9.30 until 10.30 am and the 2nd of December 9.30 until 10.30 am (yes we are early risers...?) at Beetham Nurseries. They are holding their Christmas Market over the weekend; it is a lovely event and we are thrilled to help set the festive pace.

ON THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS FROM 3.30PM.....

WE WILL BE IN ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH PLAYING FOR THE BRIGHTENING BEETHAM SWITCH ON, WHICH WILL BE AT 4PM.

This lovely evening is becoming quite the village tradition with music, mince pies, mulled wine and refreshments, all to celebrate the switching on of the trees and lights around Beetham, made possible by support from the whole community. It is magical and I do hope many of you can join us to light up our village and enjoy the music and the company.

After that we join forces with the Beetham Hand Bell ringers to entertain our lovely friends of The Dementia Walking Group with more festive music, but literally with bells on this time! For us it is music all the way to Christmas and beyond into a whole New Year. Perhaps Father Christmas may just pop a trumpet in your stocking this year, or some other instrument, if you have been good.....

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL FROM BEETHAM COMMUNITY BAND !!

'BLAST THIS CHRISTMAS MUSIC. IT'S JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT' *The Grinch*

Tess Rowlands ['I still believe....']

School Corner



We returned to school after half term to two exciting PE activities; dancing with Lucy and Ultimate Frisbee after school club. Ultimate Frisbee Club runs after school on a Tuesday and is very popular amongst all the children. Lucy is teaching our younger children in preparation for the school Nativity and Years 2 and 3 are learning African dancing, which links to their Geography topic.

We welcome one of Santa's elves this half term, who also works for St John's Hospice. During December we will be completing a sponsored run, dress in elf hats, to help raise money for St John's Hospice. Santa's elf came to visit to tell us what the money that we raised would be used for.

In partnership with Taylor's Bulb and Beetham Nurseries we have been busy planting. We have planted several troughs of daffodil bulbs for school as well as pots of bulbs. The pots have been shared among our school family and also households within Beetham. Our Christian value for this term is love with the half term focus on generosity and sharing the bulbs with others helped us to live out these core values.

Continuing our value of love, we held our Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. Children shared a poem and prayer as part of the service. Ivy also laid the school wreath during the church service on Remembrance Sunday. During school sessions and class worships, during this Remembrance period, we have been thinking about the different roles that people had during the World Wars and how we remember this as well as the history of the Poppy and its significance.

This month the whole school, Nursery to Year 6, also took part in the Dallam Cross Country Festival at Heversham. The weather brightened up as the afternoon went on and the course, although muddy in places, remained quick. We are extremely proud of all the children who ran the course. Special mentions also go to Harriet and Pippa who came second and first in their age group races.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Winter Fair at the end of November. The weather was kind to us and we were able to use inside and outside the school for the variety of stalls. We welcomed 15 independent stalls to the Fair as well as the traditional school stalls like guess the name of the teddy and the tombola. Overall we raised over £1000 which is wonderful- thank you to everyone who helped with the fair as well as came and supported.

This coming month we look forward to Christmas and Nativity celebrations, Carol singing, the Lakeland 100 and a visit to a Pantomime!

Best wishes, Abi Johnson



It's all been about socialising!

We enjoyed a delicious lunch cooked and served by students at Kendal College in early November. The following week we got into a festive mood at our monthly session in The Wheatsheaf having fun creating decorative cones. All of us, including six guests, were delighted to take away our completed tree decorations by the end of the afternoon.



At the Act of Remembrance at Beetham War Memorial we were able to lay the yellow poppy wreath members had made in memory of 'The Canary Girls'. Though the flood sadly damaged that wreath we still have another one on our Noticeboard together with information about this band of brave women who worked in munition factories 'doing their bit' during the 1st & 2nd World Wars.

In December, we shall enjoy sharing a Christmas Lunch together at The Wheatsheaf where it will also be an opportunity to celebrate the increase in our membership since returning to Beetham in April.

Though there is no official get-together in January, we are planning to have-a-go at indoor bowling locally with, of course, refreshments afterwards! For more information about our WI – and if you would like to join us at any time – please contact Jeanette, our Secretary on beethamwi@gmail.com



Gail, Jeanette, Sue, Jill & Janet
(Beetham WI's Committee)
wish all members and readers of
The Gateway a Very Happy Christmas
and hope for Peace in the New Year.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Organ recital

On Friday 24th November, 16 members of the Beetham Church congregation joined the audience at Kendal Parish Church to hear Geoffrey Field give a joyful organ recital in aid of the Kendal organ restoration fund. Also in the audience were members of Kendal South Choir where Geoff is the Musical Director

The recital was entitled 'Music to make you smile' and it certainly did that, with *A Song of Sunshine*, *Teddy Bears' Picnic*, *Nola*, *My Beethoven Rag*, *Elizabethan Serenade*, and the *Knightsbridge March*. There was also a notable rendition of *Coronation Scot*, where Geoff was able to delight the audience with the cleverly creative sounds of the train getting up steam and tooting cheerfully on its way. Definitely a sunny afternoon to smile about!

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Kendal South Choir directed by Geoffrey Field

Organ: Andy Plowman String Orchestra led by Helen Andrews

Sing We To This Merry Company

Handel's Messiah (Pt. 1), Hallelujah Chorus & Christmas Carols



Soprano : Ellie Blewitt
Alto: Rebecca Anderson
Tenor: Aidan McCusker
Bass: Sam Weakley

Saturday 16th Dec. 2023

St. Thomas's Church, Kendal
7:30 pm £15 incl. programme
Under 18s Free



Tickets available from Ticketsource,
or members of Beetham Church Choir



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AT YEW TREE BARN
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the HERON theatre
December What's On

Sunday 3rd Dec ~ RNCM Piano & Clarinet Chamber Concert (Sunday music, 2.30pm)

Friday 8th Dec ~ The Rushley Singers & Co (Winter Concert)

Saturday 16th Dec ~ The Issey Chivers Quartet (Jazz Music)

Sunday 17th Dec ~ Gravest Fears: Two Ghost Stories by M R James (Drama, 2.30pm)

Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
email: boxoffice@theherontheatre.com ~ tel: 015395 64283

Events start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated
Doors open 45 minutes before performance. Refreshments available
The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS

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14 Dec ~ Susan Wilson
'Eric Morecambe & other NW entertainers'
11 Jan ~ Mike Hayward
'Just Around the Corner - Adventures in a Kayak'
25 Jan ~ Julian Blatchley
'Aegean - Sailing the Wine Dark Sea'

All talks are on a Thursday, starting at 10am, with a break
for coffee around 11am, then questions to the speaker.
Everyone welcome. No need to book in advance. £2.50 for
one talk (including refreshments) or £18 for all 12

BAKING WITH KATE
Tuesday 5th December, 12.30 - 3.30pm

CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Monday 11th December, 1 - 4pm

CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 12th December, 1 - 4pm

POWSOWDIE
Friday 15th December, 11am - 2pm

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Levens Choir

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7.30pm

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Conductor
Gawain Glenton

Charity No. 1310595 Further details at www.levenschoir.net

Beetham Village Facebook
**A dedicated facebook group
for Beetham village**
Search for
"Beetham Village Cumbria"

Beetham Parish Council
The next monthly meeting will be held in
Beetham CE School
Monday 4th December at 7pm
Members of the public are welcome to attend
Minutes of previous meetings and details of the
Councillors can be found at www.beethampc.co.uk

Important message for advertisers

Now that Gateway is back to both paper and online circulation we aim to contact each advertiser individually for your ongoing requirements - some ads were slightly altered as it became necessary during lockdown to realign some pages. Do please let us know if there are any details you would like us to change.

And to other local business, would you like to advertise? Annual costs can be as low as just £20! To book space call John on 015395 62648 or email j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

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The deadline for contributions for the January
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Please send articles to the editor, Jenny Marks
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Leslie as she joins our village
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We are delighted that Leslie
is opening the shop in time
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well in planning and
decorating the remainder of
the property and look forward
to a full reopening next year!