

Brightening Beetham

Big Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On at 4pm
on Saturday 7th December

Music, mince pies and mulled wine in church from 3.30pm

Village Carol Singing

Wednesday 18th December - Slackhead

Thursday 19th December - Beetham

Donations to the Salvation Army and the Church Heating Appeal

Meet in the Church Car Park at 6pm, with warm clothing & torches

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

at 6pm on
Sunday 22nd December

All welcome to this traditional candlelit service in Beetham Church

Christingle Service

at 4pm on Tuesday 24th December

Family service with the lighting of Christingles

Christmas at St Michael & All Angels

Midnight Mass - 11:30pm, Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Eucharist - 11am, Wednesday 25th December

THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

DECEMBER 2024

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk



As I sit to write this short piece, we are in the last days of November. The air is cold, the days are short, and Christmas is fast approaching. There is a general realization that the Festive Season, which a few weeks ago seemed to be no more than a distant prospect, is now almost upon us. Hence the sense of preparation is quickening: Christmas cards to be bought and written; puddings and cakes to be made; geese and turkeys to be ordered; presents to be sourced; arrangements to be agreed for family meals on Christmas Day and Boxing Day....

In the midst of all the hurly-burly of these Christmas preparations, of all the frustrated cries of 'I don't know why on earth we bother', it is, I think, important for each of us to try to carve out for ourselves, every day if possible, a brief period of quiet. And what better way to do that than to have to hand a good book to read, probably not a gripping thriller, a gruesome murder mystery, or an account of wartime atrocities, but perhaps something gentler and more reflective.

That idea leads me to recommend a very short novel by the Irish author Claire Keegan entitled *Small Things Like These*. It is set in a small Irish town in 1985 and tells the story of an average-kind of Irish family of the time – father, mother and five young school-age daughters who, whilst not abjectly poor, are certainly far from well off, as we meet them across the days running up to Christmas and share with them in their Christmas preparations. There is, for example, a lovingly drawn description of the family coming together to make and bake a Christmas cake, with the father staying awake until three o'clock in the morning in order to take the cake out of the oven when it is cooked. Equally the author writes tenderly of the parents setting their five daughters to the task of each writing a letter to Father Christmas outlining their modest requests for Christmas presents. When the children have gone to bed, the parents read the children's letters, note the Christmas presents requested, then burn the letters in the stove so that they may pretend that the father has taken them to post on his way to work early the next morning.



But there is a darker side to the story. The father owns and runs a small coal-haulage business and as Christmas approaches he has to work from very early until late delivering fuel to his customers. Hence, early one bitterly cold morning, he takes a delivery of coal to the town's convent, an institution which is known to take in girls and young women who have become pregnant out of wedlock and disowned by their families. Unbolting the coal-shed door, to his immense surprise he discovers there a young teenage girl, barefoot and dressed only in the flimsiest of clothes. He gently wraps his overcoat around her and takes her to the front door of the convent where the Mother Superior seemingly gently chides her for trying to run away.

For the rest of the day, the coal-merchant goes about his business, but becomes increasingly troubled about the girl and what might have happened to her. Late that night, he returns unannounced to the convent, unbolts the coal-shed door, and, just as he had feared, finds the young woman once again 'imprisoned' there. Without further thought, he acts....

Those who read the book find out what he does and are left to surmise why it is that he does it and what the consequences are likely to be.

Happy Christmas!

David Peacock

Claire Keegan Small Things Like These, Faber 2021. £8.99. Available in bookshops and online.

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear friends,

I write this letter looking ahead to the beginning of a new church year, contemplating once more the beginning of Advent. That season of anticipation, preparedness and expectation that primes us for our keeping of Christmas. The yearly invitation for us all to ponder anew the mystery, joy and meaning of God's commitment to the world he has made. Pledged and promised in the birth of a baby in the manger of Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

In the first stanza of her poem 'Advent', Christina Rossetti, the well-loved Victorian wordsmith, evokes this sense of longing with reference to the darker nights and colder weather:

*'This Advent moon shines cold and clear,
These Advent nights are long;
Our lamps have burned year after year,
And still their flame is strong.
"Watchman, what of the night?" we cry,
Heart-sick with hope deferred:
"No speaking signs are in the sky,"
Is still the watchman's word.'*

As I read this, the phrase 'heart-sick with hope deferred' was one that seemed particularly striking, and perhaps chimes with your own reflections too. Since, we don't need to look very far to see evidence of 'hope deferred' all around us. Whether that's the distress of countries and regions beset by war and conflict, the political instability of nations, the financial hardship that many continue to face, the failures and transgressions of institutions (including the Church), or indeed the sorrows and pains and griefs of our own hearts and lives. It is easy to believe that hope is far removed from us, unable to see from where it is going to come, or indeed how it can make a difference.

Yet, it is hope - at its most simple and beautiful - that we find and see as we look to these Advent days. A hope that is not dependent on our resources, or willpower, or resolve or efforts, a hope which we can't produce or manufacture, design or accumulate for ourselves; but a hope that arises as a gift of divine grace and goodness. That stirs in the soul, lifts our eyes, and fixes our hearts on the God whose character and nature we see in the face of Jesus Christ, in whom - as the carol exclaims - all the hopes and fears of all the years are met. As the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Tutu, once said: 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness'.

It is this hope that, returning to Rossetti's poem, she articulates in the following way:

*'There no more parting, no more pain,
The distant ones brought near,
The lost so long are found again,
Long lost but longer dear:
Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard,
Nor heart conceived that rest,
With them our good things long deferred,
With Jesus Christ our Best.'*

Whatever darkness you might be confronting as you read this, I pray that you might know the promise of this hope in the days that lie ahead. However you might feel yourself burdened or anxious, weary or worn out with the world, with the experience of life as you know them at the moment, or on behalf of those whom are dearest to you; let the God of hope enter into your life this Christmastime.

May he grant you his peace and perspective, his comfort and joy, and the assurance of his care for you as we celebrate his birth amongst us, as one of us, once again.

As ever,




St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for December

Date	Time	Service
Sun 1st	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	Advent Carol Service
Weds 4th	10.30am	BCP* Holy Communion
Sun 8th	10.30am	Joint Gathering at St James Arnside. No morning service at St Michael & All Angels
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 15th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 22nd	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Tues 24th	4pm	Christingle
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Weds 25th	11am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sun 29th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	(6pm)	No Evensong

Please see weekly Pewsheet for details
*Book of Common Prayer

Kent Estuary Mission Community Choir

There will be a combined Kent Estuary Choir singing at the Mission Community Gathering (see below). Practice files will be provided and there will be a rehearsal on Friday 6th December in St James at 5pm. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact Hannah or Geoff for details and music

Blue Christmas

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

Storth
Village Church

Thursday 19th
December

4pm



Funerals at St Michael & All Angels

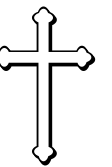
7th November ~ Clive Holden

22nd November ~ John Malcolm Thompson

Burial

28th November ~ Christopher Haine

May they rest in peace



Please join the churches of the Kent Estuary in a Mission Community Gathering

10.30am, Sunday 8th December

in St James' Church, Arnside

Please note there will be no service at Beetham that morning but Evensong will be held at 6pm as normal



'Do you believe this?'
A Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 19th January 2025

3.00pm

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Church
Silverdale Road, Arnside

REST & RESET

Christian meditation
A moment to press pause II

St James Church Arnside

6:15 - 7:00PM

FEB TUES 4th APR TUES 1st JUN TUES 3rd

Contact: revhannahwallace@gmail.com 01524 449 055

REST & RESTORE

A time of prayer for healing & wholeness

St James Church Arnside

6:15 - 7:00PM

JAN TUES 7th MAR TUES 4th MAY TUES 6th

2025 DATES

Walks for All ~ Christmas Carols & Songs

The Walks for All group, for people living with dementia and their carers, finished their walk on Tuesday 26th November at Arnside Methodist Church for their annual 'Christmas Carols and Songs'

Whilst the walkers warmed up with tea, coffee and cakes they were entertained by members of the Beetham Community Band with a selection of Christmas songs. This was followed by audience participation singing Christmas carols with the Beetham Church Handbell Ringers. Everyone was in good voice and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks go to Rev Tiras Dainty-Share and Arnside Methodist Church for hosting the event on behalf of the Kent Estuary Mission Community

For more information on the Walks for All group please contact the Project Leader, Feleena Taylor, on 07474 588585



Holme Community School

We were delighted to welcome Years 3 and 4 of Holme Community School to St Michael and All Angels on Friday 15th November.

The pupils were shown around the church by Reverend Andrew and asked plenty of interesting questions. They clearly enjoyed their experience and gave a big thank you at the end of their visit.

Church Christmas Cards

This year's Christmas cards are on sale now on the bookstall at the back of the church, with all proceeds going towards Beetham Church



Act of Remembrance

The Beetham Act of Remembrance was held on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial, followed by the Remembrance Eucharist in the church. As we continue to hear with sadness of present-day wars in the news, many people from the village were in attendance to remember lives lost and impacted during the World Wars a century ago

The services were led by the Revd Geoff Turner, with prayers by Viv Stirrup, and the Beetham Roll of Honour read by John Lomax. The Last Post was played by Brenda Bentley. Wreaths were laid on behalf on the Royal British Legion, Westmorland & Furness Council, Beetham Parish Council, Beetham CE School, and St Michael & All Angels. A wreath created by Beetham WI was placed inside the church



Thanks go to all who cleaned the War Memorial and who prepared the church - particularly the poignant entrance arch led by Ned Rowlands - and for the displays of poppies and 'There but not there' transparent soldier silhouettes



Church Heating Appeal

The first fundraising event in aid of the Church Heating Appeal was an Autumn Soup Lunch held in church on Saturday 9th November. The reordered space in the church enabled plenty of tables to be laid to welcome people for a choice of delicious homemade soups and fresh bread, followed by tea, coffee and cakes. There was a lovely social atmosphere as well as requests for second helpings!

Grateful thanks go to Dorothy MacLeod for suggesting and organising the event, and to the team of cheerful helpers who set up, waited on, and cleared up afterwards. Donations were invited in aid of the Heating Appeal and with thanks to all who gave so generously over £400 was raised

The event was enjoyed so much that it has been agreed to make it a monthly event for the village. The Soup Lunches will be held on the first or second Wednesday of each month from 11.30am to 1.30pm, starting on 4th December. All are welcome, and please bring your friends too. Larger groups, such as walking parties, are also very welcome, and please contact one of the churchwardens if you would like to book a group in advance



IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AND THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID
AT CHRISTMAS TIME, WE LET IN LIGHT AND BANISH SHADE
AND IN OUR WORLD OF PLENTY WE CAN SPREAD A SMILE OF JOY
THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND THE WORLD AT CHRISTMAS TIME...



Well dear reader that was Number One in 1984. An anthem for its time. Music reaching out to help in crisis. It was a global need. Sadly a new version has been released this year, for we are in crisis yet again even in our own small corner of the world.

Music has such unique magic. To promote messages, to soothe, to bring people together. At this season of the year when we are all chasing our tinsel tails we should listen more, play more, sing songs that bring us joy and for that moment where music takes us to another place or indeed makes hear us the cries of need.

Beetham Community Band has begun its Christmas Tour. Kicking off with a lovely time at Arnside Methodist Church, along with the Beetham handbell ringers, playing for the Dementia Walking group. A lovely morning. Some of you may know, we are diminutive in number at present due to incidents and accidents. So if you fancy coming to the rescue, just call me on 07725 580095

We will be at Beetham Nurseries on Sunday 1st of December from 3pm, and on Thursday 5th of December from 1.30pm

DECEMBER THE 7TH ~~~ BRIGHTENING BEETHAM SWITCH ON!

FROM 3.30PM WE'LL HAVE MUSIC, MINCE PIES, MULLED WINE, ANDFATHER CHRISTMAS.

This a community event and it is always so lovely to see as many of you there as possible. Our way of throwing our arms around our community. Let's make this year extra special.

Have a very very Merry Christmas
With love and kindness always
BEETHAM COMMUNITY BAND

'MAYBE CHRISTMAS (he thought) DOESNT COME FROM A STORE.
MAYBE CHRISTMAS PERHAPS MEANS A LITTLE BIT MORE'
The Grinch

I still believe..... Tess Rowlands xx



Kendal Salvation Army CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

We provided presents for 232 local children, aged 0-16 years, last Christmas. This year the number in need is likely to increase. For each child we provide a main present and a few other gifts.

Could you donate any of the following?

- a 'main' present
- a chocolate selection box
- something to read
- something to do (art/craft/colouring book/felt tipped pens)
- something to cuddle,
- something to wear (hat/scarf/socks)
- something to play (board game/jigsaw)
- something smelly (bubble bath/soap)

Thank you for making a real difference
to a child's life this Christmas.

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Over the years millions of children have benefitted from this appeal and you can make a real difference to a child this Christmas. Toys must be new, and can include dolls, teddy bears, bath toys, cars, colouring sets, books, puzzles, jigsaws, craft items, stationery and educational games. You can also bring gloves, scarves and hats.

If you would like to donate please leave your gifts at the back of the church. **They will be collected by the Salvation Army on 4th December**

Thank you for your generosity

Tess Rowlands

Monthly Wednesday Soup Lunches

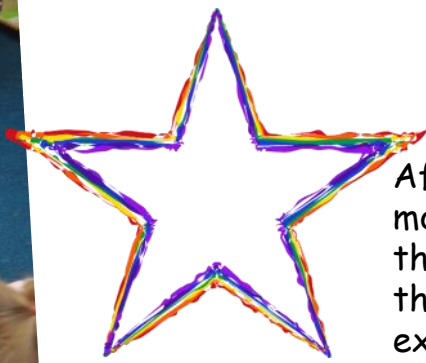
in Beetham Church
from 11.30am to 1.30pm

4th December
8th January
5th February

Hot mugs of soup with bread
Tea, coffee and cake also available
All welcome!



School Corner



After a well deserved half term break, children and staff returned to school to learn more about All Saints Day. We explored what it meant to be a saint and the qualities they should have. Following on from our learning during worship time last year, we thought about the Beatitudes. Jesus gave his followers 8 beatitudes to live life by. We explored how saints must show these to be considered saintly. Children then learnt about different saints and what they represent.

This term our core school value is Love. We have also linked this to the value of peace. November has given us the opportunity to think about both of these values.

On 11th November we held our Remembrance Service. During the service we heard poems and readings to encourage us to think about how to support peace across the world and within our communities. We also listened to the song 'Let there be Peace on Earth' evoking thoughts about our personal values.

We have also supported Antibullying week during our worship and PSHE lessons. We have celebrated our own uniqueness, celebrating our qualities as well as celebrating others and their uniqueness. The week was rounded off with Children In Need thinking again how we can support each other and others in different communities.

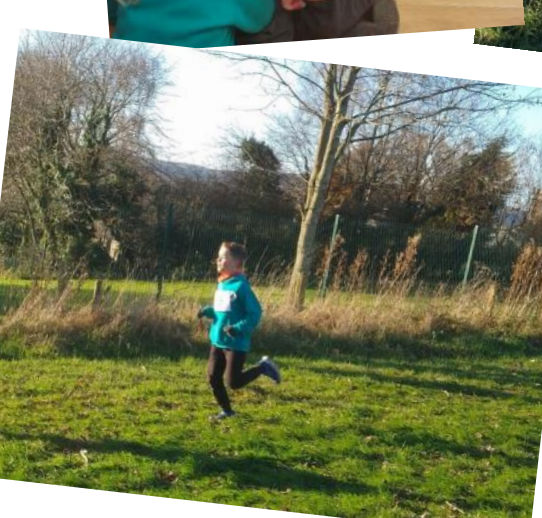
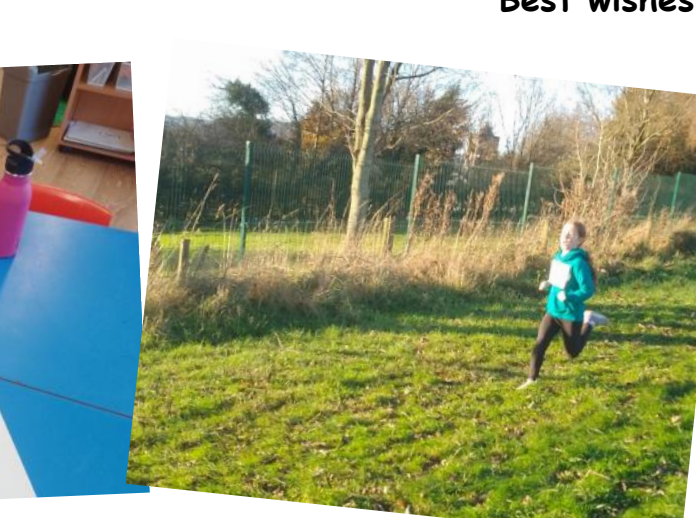
November also celebrates Interfaith Week. During the week classes learnt about different religions and were able to explore celebrations and traditions within these. Some classes looked at a day in the life. This gave children the opportunity to experience children's lives and explore similarities and differences. Other classes learnt specifically about key events in different religions focussing on pilgrimages.

The school is in the wonderful position to be able to work closely with the Heron Theatre. This month all the children joined other schools to take part in the Into Film Festival and watched a film in the theatre. Thank you to all involved.

Finally, to end the month, every child from Classes 2 and 3 attended Dallam Sports Partnership Cross Country. All of our children showed the school's core value of perseverance and we are extremely proud of the efforts they all put in. Four of our children placed in the medals for their year groups; Olivia M (1st), Pippa (2nd), Harriet E (2nd) and William (3rd). Our older children will now be heading of to the South Lakes competition in January.

Next month sees the preparation for Christmas; nativity plays, Carol singing and our Winter Fair. It's all getting a little bit exciting!!!

Best wishes, Abi Johnson





Beetham WI ~ Winter Events to keep us Warm!

'Cumbria Action for Sustainability' was the title of a Talk given by a member of the 'Cold to Cosy Homes Team' at our November monthly meeting. Practical energy advice was given which was followed by questions and discussions about ways to save money and preserve heat in our homes. A lot of information can be found on their website: www.cafs.org.uk

Coloured poppies were knitted by members who then created a wreath which Andrew kindly

allowed us to display inside St Michael & All Angels church for Remembrance Sunday. This avoided it getting wet and bedraggled as our last year's wreath sadly did when the Beetham War Memorial was flooded!



Towards the end of November, there was a good turn-out of members who enjoyed learning to play Pickleball at Burton Memorial Hall. Our thanks to our member, Lynn, for arranging the event and coaching us; to Jeanie for leading the session and teaching us the basics - and to Norma for providing us with the brews. There is talk of us having another session in the future!

Members will be enjoying a festive Christmas Lunch for our December session - and though there will not be a meeting in January, we shall be getting together to play Ten-Pin Bowling at Silverdale, with the inevitable coffee break in the café afterwards!

Our Noticeboard in Beetham village is due to be removed for a while this winter as it undergoes some necessary maintenance but it will be fitted back in time to advertise our next event when guests and potential new members will be very welcome to join us. For more information about our WI, contact us on beethamwi@gmail.com.

Beetham WI Committee send their very Best Wishes to all our members - and to readers of The Gateway - for a very Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year!





Winter at Sizergh

22 November – 24 December 2024, 12–8pm

Book your tickets, starting from £3

Begin a new family tradition at Sizergh. With a Christmas light trail, a story of Christmas past in the house, festive crafts, food and drink and more, there's something to enchant all ages.



www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winter-at-sizergh

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MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION

Friday 4th April, 11.30 - 1pm
BAKING WITH KATE
Wednesday 29th Jan, 11am - 2pm
CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Monday 6th Jan, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 10th Dec, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 11th Dec, 11am - 2pm
WRITE BY THE RIVER
Tuesday 11th March, 11am - 3.30pm
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Sunday 19th Jan, 10am - 2.30pm

Heron Corn Mill, Mill Lane, Beetham, LA7 7PQ
015395 64271 - info@heronmill.org - www.heronmill.org



Quest Lecture Group

A friendly group, meeting at the Athenaeum village hall, Leasgill, LA7 7ET

12 Dec ~ Ron Blackburn
'Wildlife photography: Barn Owls and me'
9 Jan ~ Judith Shingler & Allison Peak
'School Life in the 1950s'

All meetings are on Thursdays, starting at 10:00am. Guest tickets for individual meetings £2.50, tea/coffee included. Enquiries to Adrian Tayler: aptayler@gmail.com 01539 564030



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the HERON theatre

Winter What's On

Friday 6th Dec ~ 'The Eight Mountains' (Film)
Sunday 8th Dec ~ Cumbria Festival Chamber Choir (Sunday Music)
Friday 13th Dec ~ Bah Humbug! (Drama)
Saturday 21st Dec ~ Burnt Horse (Folk Music)
Sunday 2nd Feb ~ Viva Wind Quintet (Sunday Music)
Friday 7th Feb ~ Funny Stuff (Drama)
Tuesday 11th Feb ~ The Danish Collector (Exhibition on Screen)



Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
email: boxoffice@theherontheatre.com ~ tel: 015395 64283
Evening performances start at 7.30pm. Sunday Music 2.30pm. Exhibition on Screen 2pm. Refreshments available
The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS

Beetham Parish Council

Next meeting will be in Storth Village Church
Monday 2nd December at 7pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend
Previous minutes and details of the Councillors can be found on the website at www.beethampc.co.uk

Now may we sing: A choral Christmas

Holy Trinity Parish Church
Bolton-le-Sands
7.30 pm
Saturday 14th December

Carver Uniting Church
Windermere
3.00 pm
Sunday 15th December

Conductor:
Gawain Glenton

Tickets £15
Children and students free
Available from www.levenschoir.net or at the door

Picture: S. F. Burgert of the Boon Dipsch (Museum of Fine Arts, Warsaw)

The Gateway deadline

Items for the January 2025 edition should be submitted by **Monday 30th December**

Please email articles to **jenny.marks@btinternet.com**

View deadlines online at **Beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk**

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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.