

Beetham Church Annual Flower Festival

Saturday 25th ~ Monday 27th May

The 60th Anniversary of RHS Britain in Bloom'

in flower displays and music

Free entry, donations welcomed

Open 10.30am-4pm Saturday and Monday,
and Sunday 1-4.30pm

Refreshments daily 2-4pm

Beetham Handbellringers

Beetham Band, Saturday at 11.30am and 2pm

Please also join us for a special Choral Evensong at 6pm on Sunday



Brain of Beetham Quiz

With our Flower Festival our Quizmaster Clive Holden asks us which Plant or Flower...

- 1) Is found between Morecambe and Grange ?
- 2) Is always in perfect condition ?
- 3) Hardens a sailor man's biceps ?
- 4) Makes it easy to get lost ?
- 5) Is said to be the best policy ?
- 6) Results in unlocking your handcuffs ?
- 7) Is found below the bovine nose ?
- 8) Is not quite fully compos mentis ?
- 9) Is allegedly found in an onion patch ?
- 10) When eaten brings indolence ?
- 11) Is plentiful in Scandinavia ?
- 12) Is to be regretted ?



Answers to the April 'Royalty' quiz:-

1. Richard I (the Lion Heart).
2. George II at Dettingen in 1743.
3. The Duke of York (i.e. King George VI) at Wimbledon in 1926.
4. James II (James VII of Scotland).
5. Harold and William I (Hastings was fought at Battle).
6. William IV had served in the Navy.
7. Henry I.
8. Henry V (as in Shakespeare's play).
9. Edward VII (we were not at war during his reign).
10. Queen Caroline was barred from the coronation of George IV.
11. James I (James VI of Scotland).
12. Edward I was unusually tall at the time.



THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

MAY 2024

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

"Everything I do, I do it with you"

(misquoting Bryan Adams from 1991)

The prefix com (no, I don't mean dot-com) is used in many words, for example: companion, compassion, combine, commerce, communion, community..... the list could go on.

From what I remember of Latin lessons back in the day (now that really does date me!) the word com was Latin for "with". And, now I come to think of it, comme is French for "with", too!

Take, for example, COMMUNITY. It's especially the case in a small place like Beetham and its environs that, in order to achieve anything of significance, we need to do it TOGETHER – that is, WITH others.

Beetham is a case in point. At the centre of our village is the Church and it, together with the School and the Wheatsheaf, form the nucleus of our community. It is here that people meet one another, do this WITH one another, enjoy life WITH one another.

Inevitably, these things don't just happen. The School depends existentially upon its Staff led by the Headteacher and Governors and with valued assistance from the Parent Community. The Wheatsheaf too is an important meeting place – another hub of community life. The Church, of course, has been there longest of all – not just as a place of worship but also as the centre of the life of the village. In past times, the market took place in the churchyard: the base of the market cross is still visible there.



The Church doesn't just happen – it needs to be kept going. Of course, one may say "Andrew is a young man – that what the Vicar is for" but he is here to lead us, not simply to do it all himself! It's US, the people, our COMMUNITY who must get together and do it WITH each other. We are, thank goodness, blessed with a number of firmly-committed hard-working volunteers. There was almost a crisis at the April Annual Meeting for the election of churchwardens just recently. The three wardens had all "served their time" (and more besides!) and at one time it seemed possible that no one was going to step forward to fill their shoes. They all three seem to do so much!

But it needn't be so. During the pandemic, restrictions on our activities rather condensed the various volunteer rotas - coffee-making, cleaning, reading etc etc - to the point where, instead of the Churchwardens having the responsibility to see that these things all get done, they were increasingly doing it themselves! In more recent, normal times, previous order is being restored! AND, thanks especially to Viv, Theresa and Deborah – we do once more have three nominees to fill the three Churchwarden posts.

A recent article in The Church Times reported:

The Church Buildings Commission survey in the diocese of Norwich discovered that about 100 churches had no recorded churchwardens. In one rural benefice, there were 19 churches, placing "great pressure" on the incumbent, who had three churches with no PCC members, leaving her with sole responsibility for them.

(continued on page 3)

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman



Dear friends,

Over the last few years around Easter the BBC has produced a programme called 'Pilgrimage' which invites people (admittedly some more well-known than others) from different walks of life and sends them on a pilgrimage to well-known Christian sites around Europe. Whereas in previous years pilgrims have journeyed to Santiago de Compostela, Rome and Fatima, this year the producers invited the celebrities to journey along the Pilgrim's Way in North Wales. A route beginning in Holywell at the well of St Winifred (a Welsh Christian martyr of the seventh century) and then travelling east to Bardsey Island, the so-called 'island of twenty-thousand saints'.

What makes the programme so fascinating is the window it shines on the spirituality and faith of the pilgrims, who intentionally represent a variety of religious (and non-religious) perspectives. Naturally, this leads to some interesting and diverse conversations, and yet – watching the programme – it is fascinating to see the pilgrims' openness of heart and mind to seeing where the journey will take them, setting aside time for conversations with each other, but also often with God.

In the earliest days of the Church, as we are reminded in the Acts of the Apostles, those who came (eventually) to call themselves Christians, were initially known as those who 'belonged' or who 'followed' 'The Way'. From the very beginning there was a sense that the Christian community understood itself to be part of something that was dynamic and unpredictable and, quite literally, 'on the move'. They recognised that to live one's life in responses to the promises of God, and particularly, the good news that the early Church proclaimed had been seen so clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, was to join a movement. A movement that in centuries past, and still today, has the power to bring about transformation, that changes lives and, in doing so, changes the world.

The ability of the Christian community, in every place and time, to do this isn't based on its material success, status or social pre-eminence (even if sometimes the Church has wrongly prioritised these things), but rather on the hope it seeks to live out of and the message it has been commissioned to proclaim. In the stories we find in the gospels of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, we are reminded repeatedly that those he encountered didn't naturally find it hard to believe what they were seeing. Whether it's the women at the empty tomb, the bewildered travellers on the road to Emmaus, or the disciples cowering behind locked doors in Jerusalem, the Bible doesn't shy away from showing us that believing is sometimes difficult. And that, whatever our age or stage of life, the secret of faith is a willingness to open out hearts to the possibility of what God can, will and does do.

The Victorian writer, G.K. Chesterton, commenting on the ups and downs of Christian history, once wrote:

'Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.'

I pray that as you journey through the month ahead, you may know God's guidance and grace, know the joy of his risen presence, and so find faith to continue, or perhaps to start, walking in his way.

With every good wish and prayer,

As ever,

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Priest-in-Charge | The Revd Andrew Norman | 015395 62355 | revdabn@gmail.com |
| Assistant Curate | The Revd Hannah Wallace | 01524 449035 | revhannahwallace@gmail.com |
| Licensed Lay Minister | Vivien Stirrup | 015395 64320 | vstirrup7@aol.com |
| Licensed Lay Minister | Chris Roberts | 015395 63019 | lainyandchris@aol.com |
| Vice Chair/Churchwarden | Brian Smalley | 015395 64778 | b.e.smalley@btinternet.com |
| 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.

"Everything I do, I do it with you"

(Continued from front page)

Thankfully, Beetham has not followed that trend, but that article brought to mind a piece of John Betjeman's writing, from "Poems in the Porch":

Let's praise the man who goes to light

The church stove on an icy night.

Let's praise that hard-worked he or she

The Treasurer of the P.C.C.

Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles,

The nave and candlesticks and tiles.

Let's praise the organist who tries

To make the choir increase in size,

Or if that simply cannot be,

Just to improve its quality.

Let's praise the ringers in the tower

Who come to ring in cold and shower.

But most of all let's praise the few

Who are seen in their accustomed pew

Throughout the year, whate'er the weather,

That they may worship God together.

These, like a fire of glowing coals,

Strike warmth into each other's souls,

And though they be but two or three

They keep the church for you and me.

"For you and me" – yes, it is OUR Church in OUR community and we must ALL share WITH each other the necessary tasks and responsibilities!

John Lomax

Choir of St Michael & All Angels
Directed by Geoffrey Field

Choral Evensong

All are welcome to our choral services at 6pm on
28th April & 26th May

QUIET DAY

Jesus said 'come to me'



Thursday 2nd May 2024

9.45am - 3.30pm

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

An opportunity for the Kent Estuary Mission Community to come together at St Michael and All Angels, Beetham for a Quiet Day led by Marjorie Arnold, a Lay Reader based at Holy Trinity, Kendal. The day will begin with refreshments from 9.45am and conclude at 3.30pm. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring your own lunch.

There is no charge for the day; but, if desired, there will be an opportunity to make a donation.

Please do let us know that you are coming if you can (just for catering) by contacting either Annie Garden (annie@annegarden.uk) or Viv Stirrup (vstirrup7@aol.com).

Kendal Deanery

Service for
Ascension Day



Very Rev'd Jonathan Brewster (Dean of Carlisle Cathedral) preaching and presiding
St Patrick's Church, Preston Patrick
Thursday 9th May at 7.30pm



St Michael & All Angels
Holy Communion for
Ascension Day
Beetham Church
Thursday 9th May at 10am

Aline is pushing back against poverty.

Abused, homeless and hungry, Aline was on the brink of survival in Burundi. But she transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid and secured a vital income and a home for her and her children.

Support more families like Aline's to push back against the inhumanity of poverty.
Donate today.

Join us this Christian Aid Week **12-18 May**
Please pick up an envelope at the back of church

'Dad's Book'

What matters most in life? Family, friends, work, health, pets, home, holidays, money, music - endless possibilities for many people. A good question to reflect on and what may emerge from such meditations is that priorities change over a life time. In writing a book about my father, John Hindle's life the answer to this question changed over time. When his troop ship convoy was attacked in the Mediterranean on its way to North Africa by submarines firing torpedoes and German fighter and bomber planes dropping bullets and explosives, his priority was survival, although being confined below deck all he could do was pray. His "go to" prayer when facing death which he did quite a few times during the war and since during times of serious ill health was Psalm 23. I am sure when most of us are in terrifying situations we pray and we know what matters most in our life then is that God can hear us.

Dad's Book written by me not only records dad's life growing up in Blackburn and the adventures of his war years but challenges us to look back at the good and bad lessons of the 20th century and make a better future. Any royalties I should receive from sales of the book will go to the church because God and his Christian belief mattered most to my dad. The book can be purchased on line or in any book shop. It is called "Dad's Book", the author is under my pen name of "Beth Hindle" and the ISBN number is 978-1-0358055-4-9.

Thank you, Elizabeth Rocke



'AT LAST CAME THE GOLDEN MONTH OF THE WILD FOLK - HONEY SWEET MAY, WHEN THE BIRDS COME BACK, AND THE FLOWERS COME OUT, AND THE AIR IS FULL OF THE SUNRISE SCENTS AND SONGS OF THE DAWNING YEAR.' *Samuel Scoville Jr, Wild Folk*

Finally we are seeing signs of summer in-between showers and rollercoaster weather. Turning the diary page from April to May always lifts me. Although I have to admit it has started to come around faster and faster these last few years. It is the beginning of a busy season for bands, having rested since Christmas performance wise. Our next outing is Beetham Flower Festival that runs throughout the May Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. It really is a celebration of everything, so do come along, you will not be disappointed. It is our own Beethambury, but with fabulous flowers!

'MAY YOUR HEART ALWAYS BE JOYFUL. MAY YOUR SONG ALWAYS BE SUNG' *Bob Dylan*

I always feel better after I have been to band or choir, but of late that has been sporadic to say the least due to illness. However, I did make an appearance to band last weekto conduct, as our esteemed maestro had to be somewhere else. (Is there anything else on Saturday mornings?) Well it was an experience for us all I think ...it certainly confirmed what I had suspected. Conducting is hard work and not for the faint hearted. The baton will be gift wrapped and returned this Saturday.

At this point on behalf of our lovely band members I would like to thank St Michael and All Angels for letting us practice every week in that beautiful space, even more beautiful post reordering. Come along and see us and our surroundings - as I say every month, a warm welcome awaits as does the encouragement to join us and play. I continue with my research into the benefits of music and see proof of it everywhere. If you are looking for something you might just find it with us.

Before I go, last month I wrote of the lovely accordion that has been donated to us for band use. Not sure of protocol and as I say illness, I did not name our benefactor. Mrs Valerie Holden was the lovely lady to whom it belonged and Clive, her husband, saw that it came to us. We are so grateful and hope that very soon someone will wish to play it once again.

As always, please contact me for any information regarding Beetham Community Band. Be it joining or wanting us to play at an event .

'ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER WITHIN YOU.

JUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF THE SEA WILL PART BEFORE YOU. STOP THE RAIN TURN THE TIDE'

Starlight Express. In memory of Phil Marks, one of our original members

Love and kindness always, Tess x 07725580095

Beetham Big Duck Day Saturday 4th May, 11am Annual Duck Race

on the River Bela at Ellers Meadow
with grateful thanks to Mr & Mrs Gardner

- ◇ Fantastical Duckreations round the village*
- ◇ Race Heats on the River from 11am
- ◇ The 3 winning ducks of all 10 heats go forward to the GrandQuackers Final & Tote
- ◇ Refreshments, Duck-related Stalls & Games

* If you live in Beetham please can you have your duckreations ready for judging by 9.30am, to be in with the chance of winning the coveted rosettes and special prizes...

How to Win on Duck Day

1. Own a duck

Each duck in the 10 race heats is numbered. You can 'own' a duck by buying a ticket with the heat number and duck number on it (eg Heat 5, Duck 22). Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased in advance from Friends of Beetham Church or on the day (although they sell out fast). The winning three duck owners in each heat will go forward to the Final where your duck will be given a name (Alfie, Betty etc). The winning owner of the Final will receive £100 cash, & many other prizes available

2. Bet on the GrandQuackers Final Tote

The 30 ducks in the Final will each be named instead of numbered. Even if you do not own a winning duck you can still buy tote tickets on the day for £1. If your chosen duck name comes 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the Final you will win cash prizes!



TALKING HEADS

On Sunday 14th April, following an excellent Afternoon Tea in Church, we were entertained by two of Alan Bennett's endearing monologues from the series 'Talking Heads', brilliantly performed by John Lofthouse.

John began the performance with 'A Chip in the Sugar', portraying Graham Whittaker, a weak gentleman with some mental health issues who lives with his Mother. Graham's problems, about which he frequently comments, "I didn't say anything", are complicated when his Mother meets an 'old flame',

Mr. Turnbull, whose renewed ardour results in a proposal of marriage. However, Graham discovers that Mr. Turnbull's intentions are not entirely honourable. Graham's disclosure of this results in Graham and his Mother returning to his former comfortable life.

This was followed by the second monologue, 'Bed Among the Lentils' which caught us all by surprise as this concerns Susan, a nervous and alcoholic Vicar's wife. John appeared wearing a convincing long wig and skirt and Susan proceeds to relate her problems of life associated with the demands of being married to a Vicar whose first concern is the well-being of his Parish. Her problems with Flower Arranging, which bring Susan so much distress, however, do not apply to St Michael's in Beetham! Susan, in need of further alcoholic and other sustenance has to drive to Leeds for which a local Grocer fulfils all her needs!

Both of the monologues were brilliantly presented by John and resulted in appreciative laughter, as well as tinges of sadness which made us all think!

Dianne Lomax



Easter 2024 at St Michael and All Angels



Palm Sunday marked the beginning of Holy Week with the usual morning choral procession from Beetham School to the Church and the distribution of palm crosses. This was followed by 'The Way of the Cross', an evening service of readings and hymns. Holy Communion was held on the mornings of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then the Maundy Thursday service with the washing of feet followed by the Maundy Thursday Watch during the evening. The usual Good Friday devotional service took place in the



afternoon. A bright and sunny Easter Day corresponded with the beginning of British Summer Time when daffodils were placed in Sandy's cross by the Easter congregation as they left the Church.

Thank you to all those who worked on the Services, the Music, the Bells, the Cross, the Tomb, the Easter Garden and the beautiful flower arrangements which adorned the Church on Easter morning. The Church looked resplendent, both inside and out, as befitted this special festival making the congregation feel welcome and joyful, even if two visitors mistook the tomb for a hedgehog shelter!

Dianne Lomax



School Corner

Borwick Hall Two-day Outdoor Adventure!

Our Year 2 and 3 class had a brilliant two-days at Borwick Hall where they took part in all sorts of fun activities to build their teamwork skills and positive attitudes. From team-building games to canoeing, a rocky ramble to Hutton Roof, indoor caving, climbing and even a tour of the old building - they did it all!

Not only did the children have lots of fun, but it was also a fantastic opportunity to try new things and support each other with lots of encouragement. Lots of fears were conquered, especially heights!

The rocky ramble to Hutton Roof also linked with our Geography lessons as the children got to see the amazing limestone pavements and go fossil hunting, all whilst practising their scrambling skills.

We really appreciate the amazing instructors, Gary and Stuart, who made sure everyone had a fantastic time and stayed safe throughout the trip - thank you! Thank you also to Miss Hooson and Mrs Moore for all their efforts and enthusiasm over the two days. It is wonderful to be able to offer these extra-curricular activities to our children.

Well done to all the Year 2 and 3 students for being awesome adventurers! We're super proud!



Beetham WI April News

14 members spent a very interesting afternoon at the King's Food Bank headquarters in Kendal for our April monthly meeting. The manager, Linda Sutherland, gave an excellent account of the efficient organisation of the food bank; how & why it came into being, how food is collected and distributed to those in need.

Our next meeting will be Thursday May 9th at 2pm upstairs in The Wheatsheaf when Sandra Gold-Wood will give a presentation on The Canary Girls. Visitors are most welcome to join us. Further details about our WI can be obtained by emailing Jeanette at beethamwi@gmail.com or see information on our noticeboard in the village



Dementia Friendly
Walks for All
in the Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

| | |
|----------|---|
| 7th May | The Old School Brewery Crag Road, Warton, LA5 9PL |
| 14th May | Leighton Hall Peter Lane, Yealand Conyers, LA5 9ST |
| 21st May | Holgate's Holiday Park Cove Road, Silverdale, LA5 0SH |

Tuesdays 10am – 11am
Optional visit to a café/pub afterwards
Easy guided walks for people living with dementia & their carers
Open to anyone who would like the support of our friendly group to discover the beautiful landscape, wildlife & culture of the area
No need to book – just turn up!

Further information:
www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk/events Feleena Taylor (Project Leader): 07474588585
info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk National Landscape Partnership: 01524 761034

MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION
Friday 3rd May, 11.30 - 1pm
BAKING WITH KATE
Wednesday 29th May, 11am - 2pm
CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Tuesday 7th May, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 14th May, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 22nd May, 11am - 2pm
WRITE BY THE RIVER
Tuesday 21st May, 11am - 3.30pm
FOODIE FRIDAY
Friday 3rd May, 1pm - 3pm

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Saturday 18th May 2024
Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal 7:30pm

kendalsouthchoir.weebly.com

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art dance music film
the HERON theatre
May What's On

Friday 3rd May ~ 'A Haunting in Venice' (Film)
Sunday 5th May ~ Tom Dale Classical Guitar (Sunday Music)
Friday 10th–Saturday 11th May ~ The Heron Literature Festival
Tuesday 14th May ~ 'John Singer Sargent: Fashion & Swagger' (Exhibition on Screen)
Saturday 18th May ~ Kit Holmes (Saturday Night Music)
Thursday 23rd–Saturday 25th May ~ The Tyler Sisters (Drama)
Friday 31st May ~ 'Oppenheimer' (Film)

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; Drama Matinee 2.30pm
Doors open 45 minutes before performance. Refreshments available

The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS

Beetham Parish Council
The next monthly meeting will be held in
Storth Village Church
Monday 13th May 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. 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 £33! To book space call John on 015395 62648 or email j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

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015395 64727

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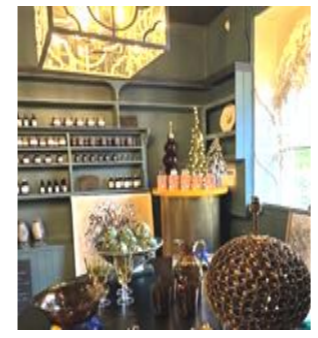
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