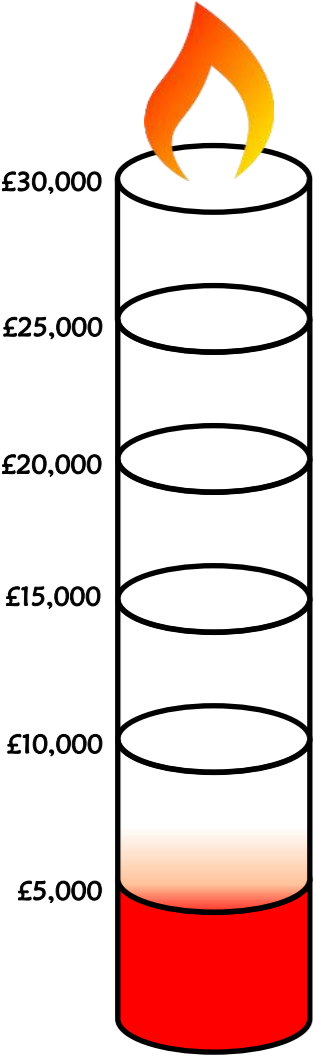


St Michael & All Angels Heating Appeal



This week, the Chancellor of the Diocese granted a faculty (a form of ecclesiastical permission similar to planning permission) for the replacement of our church twin gas boilers. As previously reported in *The Gateway* the existing boilers are over 25 years old and now obsolete. One boiler is already failing but replacement parts cannot be obtained. Whilst we still have heating at present this could change without notice and, although all those using the church can put on extra layers, the lack of sufficient heating could do considerable damage to the fabric of the church

The first three months of the Heating Appeal has raised £5,009 through events and individual donations. We are indebted to all who have contributed and we will continue to investigate other ways of raising the £30,000 needed. This will include adding to our regular fundraising events as below, and we would be very grateful for your ongoing support. We need to be realistic that we have a long way to go, and at some point we will also need to assess the not insignificant expenditure needed for our Quinquennial (5 year fabric report) repairs. We will continue to explore grant opportunities, but a further consideration on timescale is the possible withdrawal of the 'Listed Places of Worship Scheme' in April 2026 which would have a significant impact on the totals needed to be raised

Please do support our fundraising in any way you can - attending events, donations, or suggesting or organising new events. Do please make a note of the following dates in your diary and look out for more details in future *Gateway* magazines:-

- Wednesdays 5th February, 12th March & 2nd April ~ Soup Lunch in church**
- Tuesday 4th March ~ Shrove Tuesday Supper in the Heron Corn Mill Barn**
- Saturday 22nd March ~ Table Top or Nearly New Sale in church**
- Saturday 3rd May ~ Annual Duck Race on the River Bela**
- Throughout May ~ Plant Sale at Long Orchard**
- Saturday 12th July ~ Strawberry Tea in the Parsonage garden, or if wet in church**
- Summer tbc ~ Sponsored Parish Boundary Walk**

Winter Wednesday Soup Lunch in Beetham Church from 11.30am to 1.00pm 5th February

Hot mugs of soup with bread
Tea, coffee and cake also available
Donations welcomed in aid of
the church heating appeal!



Beetham Church Shrove Tuesday Supper & Quiz Night Tuesday 4th March



Heron Corn Mill Barn, 7 for 7.30pm
Cottage pie and Pancakes, & wine included
Tickets £15 from Dianne (015395 62648)
Get your team in training and brush up your
trivia for the 2025 challenge!

THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

FEBRUARY 2025

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness - Chinese Proverb

Traditionally, Christmas is celebrated for twelve nights, starting on Christmas Day. The evening of the final day of celebrations is called the 'Twelfth Night' and marks the night when Christmas decorations traditionally come down. So, have you ever wondered why the Christmas trees in the church yard of our ancient and beautiful church, St. Michael & All Angels, are still standing and lit up every evening, well after Twelfth Night? Have you ever wondered why our beautiful outside crib stays proudly in place until the 2nd February? If you were to take a quiet moment out of a busy day and go inside the church you would find that the magnificent Christmas tree, beautifully decorated and lighting up the south aisle is still in place and will remain so until the 2nd February. The wonderfully, historic crib, built by the German prisoners of war from Bela Camp in 1946 and given to the vicar and congregation as an expression of gratitude for their 'spirit of Christian brotherhood', is still being displayed in the north aisle. In short, none of these Christmas symbols and decorations will have been removed before 2nd February, even though Twelfth Night is a past memory.

Contrary to popular belief, the feast of Christmas starts around 4 pm on Christmas Eve and continues right through to Candlemas Day on the 2nd February. This year, our Christingle service at St. Michael & All Angels started at 4 pm on Christmas Eve when the church welcomed over 260 children and adults to celebrate the start of Christmas, 2024. Our Christmas season finishes 40 days later with the celebration of Candlemas Day, the day that also marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

Candlemas is also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and commemorates the occasion when the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish Law, went to the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after the birth of her son, Jesus Christ, in order to fulfil the requirements of purification and to present her first born son to God.

There is much folklore associated with Candlemas, none the least relating to the prediction of future weather patterns. In England, one common saying states that 'if Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight, if Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come back again.'

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

Candlemas Choral Evensong




**Sunday 2nd February
at 6.00pm**

*We bring our celebrations of the 'long'
Christmas season to a close with our keeping
of Candlemas, asking that we may know the
light and glory of God now and always.*

Let's hope that the weather is favourable this coming Candlemas Day. Snowdrops, those brave little blooms, sometimes called the 'Candlemas Flower', were gathered to decorate churches. They were symbols of purity, 'the snowdrop in purest array, first rears its head on Candlemas Day.'

The many candles which will be lit for our Candlemas Choral Evensong on 2nd February will represent the purifying nature of light, both spiritually and physically. As we concentrate on the lit flame of a candle we call to mind the many cultures and religions across the world where the flame represents faith, enlightenment, peace, life-giving power, and joy. Let us celebrate the comforting light of the candle this Candlemas Day whilst we look forward to lengthening days and shorter nights in the sure knowledge that winter is receding and spring is advancing.

Vivien Stirrup 

Letter from the Curate

REST

Having not written a Letter since November, this is my first opportunity, for those who I've not seen in person, to wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year! I do hope 2025 has begun well for you.

Did anyone make any New Year's resolutions I wonder? If so, I wonder how you're getting on with them? If you did make one and you're still sticking to it – well done! (You're, apparently, in the small percentage of those who carry on after the first 2 weeks in January.) I imagine your resolutions are very worthwhile and I encourage you in them. However, I'm also here to say – especially if you didn't make any resolutions or you've 'given up' already... Don't worry!

The title of my last Letter was Doing nothing is doing something. It was written in the context of Buy Nothing Day (the last Friday in November) – an antidote to Black Friday. The purpose of Buy Nothing Day is to encourage us not to feed into the environmental and ethical consequences of consumerism. I ended by saying that it can actually serve as a wider motto and reminder for us to put a pause on all activity from time to time (not just shopping).

Setting ourselves New Year's resolutions can be really helpful, but it can also feel like we're adding yet another expectation on to ourselves – yet another thing on our to-do list – yet another activity to try to squeeze in to our daily schedules. The world appears to be a very busy place. There's always something to do – for all of us in whatever age or stage of life we are. (A phrase I hear a lot is something along the lines of: "I've never been so busy as I am in retirement! How did I have time to work?!") There is so much for us to be involved with, or stimulated by, or bombarded with. In this day and age, it can be difficult for our minds to be bored (something my children complain about, but something I long for!).

Might the best resolution we could make be to give ourselves a break?? To cut ourselves some slack? To do nothing? To turn off the radio and the TV, to put down our phones and iPads? To put some rest into our daily schedule (other than sleeping!)?

Jesus says: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
(Matthew 28.11)

There are many benefits of doing nothing for a while each day such as relaxing our body and mind, slowing our heart rate, bringing a bit of peace into the day and giving us some space to reflect and gain perspective. Having some rest each day helps to re-charge our batteries for all the other things that need doing. Further to this, as the bible verse above promises, if we go to God for our rest, we'll be helped. In God, we can find rest for our souls and a peace that passes all understanding.

Good rest is so important for us all. So take it easy friends. Rest well!

With love & prayer,
Hannah



St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for February 2025

Date	Time	Service
Sun 2nd	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	Candlemas Choral Evensong
Weds 5th	10.30am	BCP* Holy Communion
Sun 9th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 16th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 23rd	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong

Please see weekly Pewsheets for details
*Book of Common Prayer

Beetham Church Electoral Roll 2025 6 yearly revision

There will be a complete revision of the Church Electoral Roll this year. Registration entitles you to vote at the Annual Church meetings each year and to be eligible to stand for the Parochial Church Council and other church and Diocesan bodies

Even if you are already registered names are not automatically carried forward this year, and living in the Parish or regularly attending church does not register you on the new roll unless you fill in a form and return it to the electoral roll officer, Jenny Marks, by Sunday 6th April.

The forms are available at the back of the church and can also be downloaded at:-
www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk/?Links

Annual Beetham Church Meetings 2025

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday 11th May, to elect three churchwardens. This will be immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where reports will be given on all the church activities from the previous year, and PCC and Deanery Synod members will be elected

Would all nominated representatives of each of the church groups please send their 2024 activity reports to the PCC Secretary, Elizabeth Rocke, before Sunday 23rd March. If you would like a reminder of what you submitted last year please go to the website (About us : Annual Reports). Reports will be collated and the full Church Annual Report & Accounts issued ahead of the APCM. Paper copies will be available for collection at the back of church and an online version will be available on the website

Would you like to have a say in the running of our church? If so, you may be interested in one of the following roles:-

Three churchwardens are elected at the Annual Vestry Meeting by members of the parish in April each year, and are the Bishops local representatives. They are the senior lay people in the parish, active members of the congregation, and ex officio members of the PCC. Churchwardens stand for election every year

PCC members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by members of the church electoral roll. The PCC is collectively responsible for the care of the church and the finances, and members represent both the church and the parish at our 6 PCC meetings each year. PCC members are elected for a term of 3 years

The **PCC Secretary** takes minutes of the PCC and Standing Committee meetings, and circulates correspondence. The Secretary does not have to be an elected PCC member

If you would like more information on any of these roles please speak to Andrew or the churchwardens.

Charity Thank-Yous

Messages of thanks have been received from The Children's Society for the £485.73 collected at the Christingle service, and from The Salvation Army for the donation of toys and £220.91 from this year's Carol Singing. Thank you to all who have donated so generously to all the charity appeals that we have held during the year

Please join the churches of the Kent Estuary in our next

Mission Community Gathering

10.30am, Sunday 9th March

in St Peters' Church, Heversham

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





"MUSIC BRINGS A WARM GLOW TO MY VISION,
THAWING MIND AND MUSCLE FROM THEIR ENDLESS WINTERING"
Haruki Murakami

Endless wintering indeed dear reader. New storms with ever inventive names reeking havoc, multi layering of clothes. It certainly has been a winter. But beautiful green shoots are becoming plentiful and thus Spring begins her song. Her overture to summer. Ever hopeful.

Beetham Community Band has come together again. Rested and eager to play. It has been lovely actually to literally blow away the cobwebs and to be together again.

"MUSIC IS VERY SPIRITUAL, IT HAS THE POWER TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER"
Edgar Winter

I am, I admit, like the proverbial broken record. In as much as I am relentless in my musical encouragement. It is never too late to start or rekindle or change. You will be made welcome, and you will soon realise we do go with the flow. No pressure or stress allowed. It is in our constitution. Speaking of which our AGM is on Saturday the 1st of February from 10.30am. Feel free to come. It never lasts long then we are on to the music making.

At this point before I sign off (thank goodness...I can hear you say), on behalf of the BCB I would like to thank St Michael and All Angels Church for letting us practice in their beautiful church once again. We have no village hall in Beetham so we are very grateful for this. Community coming together.

Should you wish to know more, 07725580095 is the number you need. We are always available to perform (well mostly ~ we do like a holiday) so just enquire.



"EVEN THE STRONGEST BLIZZARDS START WITH A SINGLE SNOWFLAKE"
Sarah Raasch

Time to create your own snow ❄️ storm?

Until March
Much love and kindness.
Tess

The Piano Playlist
STORTH VILLAGE CHURCH
23RD FEB AT 4PM
EASY LISTENING PIANO MUSIC, PLAYED LIVE,
SPANNING A TWO HUNDRED YEAR PERIOD
DONATIONS FOR CHURCH WELCOME REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
BACH, BEETHOVEN, SCOTT JOPLIN, CHOPIN, MENDELSSOHN, LISZT & MORE

Would you like to sing Carmina Burana with Kendal South Choir?

Our next concert is 'Carmina Burana' in May, involving Kendal South Choir, Amabile and Fellas choirs, and enthusiastic individuals in a joint collaboration for the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the granting of the first Kendal Royal Charter by Elizabeth 1

It promises to be a spectacular performance not to be missed, so why not join us!

We welcome all singers without audition. You will receive support from members, and excellent guidance from our Director, Geoffrey Field, who can help find where your voice lies if you are not sure. Don't worry if you haven't sung since school - just bring enthusiasm and a tuneful voice. Rehearsals are always fun, and we welcome singers from all over the South Lakes. We meet on Tuesdays at 7.15pm in Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal, with free parking nearby.

Visit our website or Facebook to find out more
kendalsouthchoir.weebly.com

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

Ash Wednesday

We mark the first day of Lent with a sung service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes.

Wednesday 5th March
7.00pm

'Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, ever constant by your side, that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.'

Grief is hard.
Death can impact all of life.

for anyone bereaved anytime

7 sessions of films and discussions

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions - a Christian perspective (optional last session)

St Thomas' Church, Milnthorpe
Wednesdays | 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.
12th, 19th, 26th March
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd April

Booking is necessary.
For more information and/or to book, please contact Lesley:
dianalesley@btinternet.com / 01524 951566

To find out more, please visit: www.thebereavementjourney.org

Cost of Living Crisis

A continuing reminder that there are people in our local area who are struggling with juggling between food and heating bills. Thank you again for all your generosity in supporting the Milnthorpe Area Food bank by donating in SPAR, or bringing dry and tinned goods to church to be taken to the donation point.

For more details go to www.milnthorpefoodbank.org

St Michael & All Angels

Mothering Sunday
30th March

Families are especially welcome to the Morning Service at 11am. Daffodil posies will be distributed during the service

Eco-friendly tips

We were delighted last year to be awarded the Bronze level A Rocha Eco Church Award. This year we are working towards the Silver Award. Being Eco-friendly is not as difficult as you might imagine and a series of tips will be published in The Gateway over the coming months that can easily be applied at home, and help to save you money as well as helping the environment

Keeping Warm

1. Make sure you close your curtains when it gets dark to stop heat escaping.
2. Get draft proof to stop losing heat. Professional draught-proofing of windows, doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards can cost around £200, but can save around £25 a year on energy bills. DIY draught proofing can be much cheaper. Installing a chimney draught excluder could save around £15 a year as well.
3. Make sure your hot water tank is insulated with a thick jacket. It will save you lots of money not to mention reducing your carbon emissions.
4. Has your loft got loads of insulation? It's one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy and will pay for itself in hardly any time

In The Kitchen

1. Do not put warm or hot food into the fridge or freezer as this will make the fridge work extra hard to try and keep it cold; always allow food to cool down first.
2. The location of your fridge can make a difference in how energy efficient it is. Make sure it is out of direct sunlight and not close to the oven. Make sure that there is a small space all around the fridge so that air can circulate.
3. Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £25 a year in energy bills.
4. When making a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water that you need. You waste electricity (and money) heating water you won't use.
5. Use your food waste bin and help to generate green energy. Recycling just 6 tea bags creates enough energy to boil the kettle for another cup of tea. One banana peel could charge your phone twice.
6. Stop using aluminium foil for cooking wherever possible; use a container with a lid that can be reused. Aluminium is a rare metal and its extraction and purification uses a lot of energy.

School Corner

Since returning to school after Christmas we have had great success in our cross country. Three of our children were selected to represent the local area at the South Lakes final where two qualified for the Cumbria trials. Harriet secured 5th position in her race and unfortunately Olivia M was injured during her event so had to pull up from her 4th place.

Our minibuses are now in regular use taking Class 2 and Year 1 swimming each Tuesday. We also have some amazing trips planned in the future.

Preschool for 2-year-old children has been really successful since we set up in September. We have now extended the number of days we are providing the provision to full time as well as the number of children we can cater for. If you do know of anyone who is interested in places in our preschool or any other classes within school then please pass on our details.

In the upcoming issues I thought I would tell you a little more about some of the subjects that we teach at Beetham. This month I have picked computing as our focus.

Computing

We are very fortunate to have a class set of chromebooks in school. We also have iPads, Beebots and Microbits as well as data logging equipment.

Children throughout the school have access to technology on a regular basis with children in Reception to Year 6 having at least a weekly computing lesson. Children are taught to use technology for a variety of purposes. We use publishing equipment to make posters and information sheets; spreadsheets to calculate budgets; databases to store, sort and find information; and applications to create pictograms and bar charts. Topics also include photography; where children take, upload and edit photographs linking to our artwork; animation where children recently retold the Nativity story; video recording and editing; and website design.

Further to this, children also use coding to control equipment such as Beebots and code mice. This progresses on to using an application called Scratch Junior to design multiple choice quizzes with programmed answers and then on to Scratch when children design games with more complex codes using blocks.

Class 3 have recently created their own pedometers using our Microbits. This involves creating block or java code, downloading on to their Microbit and then test out their codes.

Computing is an ever-changing subject and as such we work hard to ensure that we prepare the children for the world outside of school; this includes online safety. Online safety is taught to each class weekly as part of our computing lessons as well as our PSHE. We also complete activities on Safer Internet Day which this year is February 11th.

In our weekly online safety session children cover topics such as staying safe online, online bullying, online reputations and self-image and identity.

As you can see our children get regular computing lessons which cover a variety of skills to help prepare them for life outside of school as well as their next step in education.

Best wishes, Abi Johnson





Beetham WI Back by popular demand!



Following an enjoyable visit last year, twelve members of Beetham WI returned to Holgates, Silverdale this month for an afternoon social event playing bowling. A good time was had by all with lots of laughter and followed by an essential coffee and cake in the cafe!

Our next monthly members meeting is a talk by Sinead McCann about the social enterprise 'Growing Well'. This will be held on Thursday February 13th 2-4 pm at the Wheatsheaf in Beetham. Visitors are welcome to attend (entry charge £3 to include a hot drink).



More details about our WI can be obtained by emailing the Secretary at beethamwi@gmail.com or see information on our Noticeboard in Beetham village.

What's On! AT THE WHEATSHEAF

THUR	CURRY NIGHT £10 CURRY NIGHT! CURRY, SIDES AND A BEER FOR JUST £10	30TH JAN
SUN	NATIONAL YORKSHIRE PUDDING DAY FREE UNLIMITED YORKIES WITH EVERY ROAST DINNER!	2ND FEB
THUR	CARLS QUIZ NIGHT THE BEST NIGHT OF THE MONTH! STARTS 8.30PM / £1 pp / 6 max TEAM	6TH FEB
FRI	VALENTINES THE HOTTEST DATE NIGHT OF THE YEAR! JOINTS FOR STEAKS & WINE	14TH FEB

The Wheatsheaf
BEETHAM

MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION

Friday 4th April, 11.30 - 1pm
BAKING WITH KATE
Wednesday 19th Feb, 11am - 4pm
CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Monday 3rd Feb, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 25th Feb, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 24th Feb, 11am - 2pm
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Sunday 16th Feb, 10am - 2.30pm
POETRY CAFE
Wednesday 12th Feb, 11am - 3.30pm
WRITE BY THE RIVER
Tuesday 11th Mar, 11am - 3.30pm

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Cherubini Requiem

Handel: Zadok the Priest
The King Shall Rejoice
Concerto Grosso in G major

Conductor: Ian Jones
Orchestra led by Pam Redman

Capernwray Hall,
Carnforth LA6 1AQ
Saturday 1 March 2025
2.30pm

Tickets £18
Children and full time students FREE
Available from eversleychoir.org,
choir members or on the door.

Quest Lecture Group

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

13 Feb ~ Adrian Tayler
'George Hudson - Railway King or Rogue'

27 Feb ~ Susan Wilson
'Other NW Entertainers'

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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Beetham Parish Council

Next meeting will be in Storth Village Church
Monday 3rd February 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

the HERON theatre

art dance music film

February What's On

Sunday 2nd Feb ~ Viva Wind Quintet (Sunday Music)
Friday 7th Feb ~ Funny Stuff (Drama)
Tuesday 11th Feb ~ The Danish Collector (Exhibition on Screen)
Saturday 15th Feb ~ Harp and a Monkey (Saturday Folk Music)
Wednesday 26th Feb - Saturday 1st March ~ Uncle Vanya (Warton Drama Group)

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

The Gateway deadline

Items for the March edition should be submitted by **Monday 24th February**. Please email articles to **jenny.marks@btinternet.com**

View deadlines online at beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Would you like to advertise with us? Annual costs can be as low as just £33! To book space call John Lomax on 015395 62648 or email j.d.lomax@btinternet.com



Edith Anice

Leslie welcomes you to her interiors shop and café in the Old Beetham Post Office

Please see the Shop Noticeboard for details of the February Café and Shop opening times

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

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Churchwarden	Deborah Lancaster	-	lancasterdeborah82@gmail.com
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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.

Church Websites
For information about our church and parish, What's On, and church videos please visit our website at www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk. Full colour versions of this and past editions of The Gateway are also available online. If you would like to receive an email copy please contact jenny.marks@btinternet.com

For more details of the Kent Estuary Mission Community visit the website at www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com

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