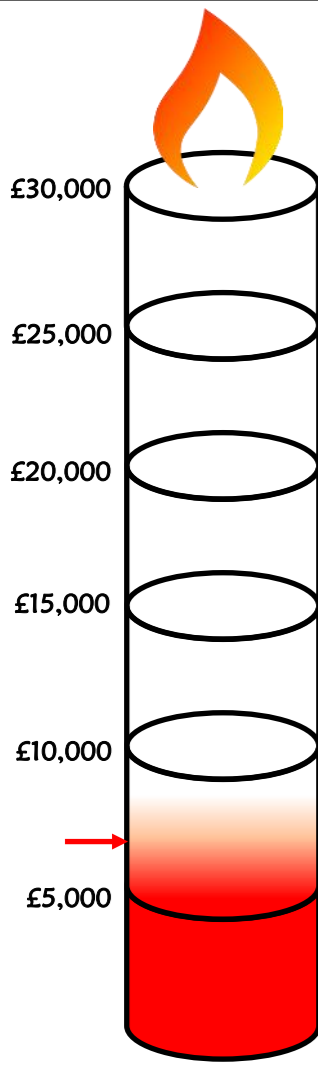


**St Michael & All Angels
Heating Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our church heating appeal, and the total now stands at **£6,966**. We are getting warmer but still have a long way to go!

Please do continue to support our fundraising events in aid of the appeal. Details of the next few events are included in this edition of The Gateway, and if you have any suggestions for any other fundraising ideas please do let us know

If you would like to make an online donation please scan the QR code, or visit our website for other alternatives



**Wednesday
Spring Soup Lunch
in Beetham Church**
from 11.30am to 1.00pm
12th March

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

Donations welcomed
in aid of the
church heating appeal

THE GATEWAY
PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM
MARCH 2025

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Jane Austen



This year marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Nowadays she is a household name, featuring on the back of our £10 notes and with numerous successful screen adaptations of her novels (who will ever forget Mr Darcy?). However, anyone watching the recent BBC series 'Miss Austen' will have noticed that her first published novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, simply bore 'By a Lady' instead of the author's name

It was common practice in the nineteenth century for female authors to adopt a male name as a pseudonym, such as George Eliot, George Sand, and Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell (the Brontë sisters). As Charlotte Brontë wrote, female authors were "liable to be looked on with prejudice". Instead Jane Austen chose to remain anonymous but wanted the public to know that her books were written by a female. Her second novel, *Pride and Prejudice* was attributed to 'the author of Sense and Sensibility', as were *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*. It was only after Jane's death that her brother published her remaining novels – *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* - under her real name

International Women's Day is celebrated this year on 8th March and to mark the occasion Penguin Books invited readers to nominate their favourite books written by women. Unsurprisingly Jane Austen features in the list. The earliest work on the list is *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft published in 1792, calling for equal education for girls and boys and an end to prejudice against women. Fast forward over 200 years and the banner headline for this year's International Women's Day (which itself has been celebrated for over 100 years) still reads "Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated"

Luckily, against this background, female authors are a success story. They no longer have to hide behind male pseudonyms and have achieved global recognition in every written genre – fantasy, horror, science fiction, historical, thriller, romance, the list goes on... Of the top ten literary bestsellers of all time, five are women (with Agatha Christie at number two behind William Shakespeare). Female writers are an inspiration to future generations, they are adept at challenging stereotypes, and they are advocates for change



The day before International Women's Day, on Friday 7th March, we will also be celebrating the World Day of Prayer. This had its origins in women's missionary work around the world, and was formally launched as The World Day of Prayer in 1928. Since then, each year Christian women from a different country write the order of worship to be used in joining together in a circle of prayer and action for peace and justice worldwide. This year the service has been written by women from the Cook Islands with the theme 'I Made You Wonderful' based on Psalm 139:1-18. Services are being held locally at Storth Village Church and at Our Lady of Lourdes in Arnside and all are welcome to attend

Thankfully the International Women's Day and World Day of Prayer remind us that the legacy of determined individuals like Jane Austen can help to change attitudes for the better, and that we do have cause for celebration!

Jenny Marks

ARE YOU SPRING CLEANING?
Well, if you find you have items too good to throw away, how about selling them?

On **Saturday 5th April** at **St Michael & All Angels Church Beetham** there will be an indoor **TABLE TOP SALE** from 10am ~ 3.30pm

The cost is £10 per table
Refreshments available, with donations welcomed

REFRESH, REPURPOSE FOR 2025!

For more information or to book a table contact Tess on 07725 580095 or Ann on 07779 208057

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear Friends

Despite the wintry weather of late there are sure signs all around us that Spring is on the way. Whether that's the extending hours of daylight with each passing day or the sight of the snowdrops now slowly (but surely) giving way to the tentative appearances of crocuses and daffodils; heralding the movement of the season and the promise of new life and hope on the horizon.

For many peoples and cultures, including our own, the arrival of springtime is synonymous with getting things ready or prepared. This is perhaps symbolised best in the tradition of 'spring cleaning'. The annual opportunity - taken up by many of us - to literally get our houses in order, setting to completing those jobs that are easy to put off at other times of the year. This impulse - to clean and clear - is something common to cultures and societies across the world, with roots tracing back to ancient times. A practical action which holds symbolic significance, marking the transition from the dormant days of winter to the growth of the springtime.

One of the potential origins for this seemingly longstanding tradition is suggested in the Jewish observances associated with the celebration of Passover. Where the house is duly cleaned to remove all traces of leavened bread in preparation for the festival, a practice that recalls the haste with which the people of Israel were forced to flee Egypt in the book of Exodus - unable to wait for their bread to rise before their journey into freedom.

This is all the more fitting when we consider that, in the Christian calendar, this month will see the beginning of the season of Lent, sometimes understood as the 'springtime of the soul'. The forty (or so) day period that prepares us, once more, for Easter, tracing once more the life of Jesus from his ministry and teaching in Galilee to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. Asking for help and grace from God to find in the story of his life, fresh meaning and purpose for our own.

Consequently, the days of Lent are that time set aside - in whatever way might be beneficial to us - to find increased opportunity to focus our minds on the things of God, opening our hearts and minds to the possibility and potential of renewing that relationship through worship, prayer and service. Through an increased attentiveness to the way in which God is at work in our lives and, just as importantly, in the lives of those around us.

Understood then in this way, we could see Lent as a time for us to be surprised by what faith - however tentative or fragile - can teach us, about God's love and care for us, about the ways in which we have fallen short, about what we can do to be more truly the people he calls us to be. A springtime season for us to change and grow that will lead us to the great flourishing of hopefulness, joy, love and praise when we arrive at Easter once more. As Pope Francis once remarked, 'Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy...reminding us that it is possible to realise something new within ourselves and around us because God is faithful, he is rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive and start all over.'

Looking out at this time and season can seem a little daunting, however - like everything in the Christian life - Lent begins with being open to God, and what God has shown us of himself in Jesus. Having faith to trust him more than what our eyes can necessarily see and so being changed as we do so.

With every good wish and prayer,

As ever,




St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for March 2025

Date	Time	Service
Sun 2nd	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP* Evensong
Weds 5th	7pm	Ash Wednesday service
Sun 9th	10.30am	Joint KEMC service at Heversham
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Weds 12th	10am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 16th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 23rd	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 30th	11am	Mothering Sunday service
	6pm	BCP Evensong

Please see weekly Pewsheets for details
*Book of Common Prayer

Beetham Church Electoral Roll 2025

A reminder that there will be a complete revision of the Church Electoral Roll this year. Even if you are already registered names are not automatically carried forward this time, so please can you fill in a new 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 or can be downloaded at: www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk/?Links

Annual Beetham Church Meetings 11th May 2025

The running of our church relies on a large group of volunteers working together in enthusiastic teams. The many different roles are interesting and varied, so would you like to join us?

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 are elected for a term of 1 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 Treasurer enables the church to meet its financial obligations. The current Treasurer is inviting anyone interested in the role to shadow him in the forthcoming year. If you would like more information on this essential role please contact John Lomax

The Fabric Committee is responsible to the PCC for the care of the church building. If anyone is interested in becoming either the Chair or the Secretary of the Committee please contact Jenny Marks for details

New members of all the church sub-committees - Fabric, Finance, and Friends - are always welcome, as are new readers, sidespeople and intercessors

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



World Day of Prayer



'I made you wonderful'
Psalm 139.14

An opportunity to gather in fellowship with Christians across the world for this service of worship and prayer. For 2025, this has been prepared by Christians in The Cook Islands, giving us opportunity to reflect on the truth that each one of us was made with care and love by God.

Friday 7th March 2025
3.00 p.m.
Storth Village Church

St Michael & All Angels Beetham

Mothering Sunday ~ 30th March

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





'SPRING : THE MUSIC OF OPEN WINDOWS'
Terri Guillemets

I have just been reminded that 30 years ago, along with a wonderful teacher, I started a community band. Never having played an instrument before aside from the Chemically tasting recorders stored in jars in the Classroom. I swear Children at school in the seventies have a pronounced overbite due to this.

Beetham Community Band is a little acorn, slowly sprouting shoots and roots. Using the same ethos as before, we are slowly growing. This is not unusual. My former band is now thirty strong, yet there were times we wondered why we carried on. The three of us, which included the conductor. We carried on because it mattered. Music always mattered and it got me through some tough times and still does. I have made lifelong friends through music and my gratitude is endless for that gift.

'FRIENDSHIP IS LIKE MUSIC. BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH A PASSION SO STRONG AND PLAYED WITH BEAUTIFUL HARMONY AND A NEVER ENDING MELODY THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET'

I think we all need more music in our lives. So as the first dawn choruses begin to warm up, why don't you think about making your own music or music with others. In this crazy world it seems the only thing that binds us at times. I for one, thirty years and more on, am up for that!

Much love and kindness as always,
Tess
07725580095



'ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP (AND MUSIC) IS THAT AGE DOESN'T MATTER'
Anonymous

Eco-friendly tips

This month's Eco Top Tips, to help to save you money as well as helping the environment, are all about looking at your energy bills and usage



Understanding your energy bills

1. Get to grips with your energy bills. The information on a typical energy bill can be confusing. But understanding it can go a long way to helping you get to grips with your energy use. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/save-money-energy-bills/
2. Switch your electricity supplier so that you support renewable electricity generation rather than electricity made by burning fossil fuels. You could use the Green Journey price comparison site <https://greenjourney.org/domestic.html>
3. More than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water. Installing a room thermostat, a programmer and thermostatic radiator valves and using these controls efficiently could save you around £75 a year.
4. If you already have a full set of heating controls, turning down your room thermostat by just one degree can save around £80 a year. Jumpers are in this year!

KEMC Gathering
Sunday 9th March 2025
10.30am
at St Peter's Heversham
We come together as churches across the Kent Estuary to unite in worship, prayer and fellowship.
Car parking available in the Dallam School car park (opposite the Boarding House)

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.'

Lent Lunches
Join us at Our Lady of Lourdes, with your lunch, as we journey through Lent with 'The Sacraments'. Hot drinks provided.
Wednesdays, 12:30pm - 13:45pm.
12th March, 19th March, 26th March
2nd April, 9th April

St Michael & All Angels Beetham
Lent Drop-in Soup Lunch
Wednesday 2nd April in Church
11.30am ~ 1pm

Come and join us for a selection of homemade soups and bread. All welcome!
christian aid Donations will all go to Christian Aid

Grief is hard. Death can impact all of life.

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for **anyone** bereaved **anytime**

7 sessions of films and discussions
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- 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

Beetham CE Primary School
Foundation Governor Vacancy

Would you be interested in supporting our school as a Foundation Governor?

If you know anyone who you think might be well-suited to helping to guide the future of our next generation please contact The Revd Andrew Norman for more details

"Through the rushes tall Ducks are a dabbling..."

Saturday 3rd May
ON THE
River Bela

Beetham Church
Annual Flower Festival 2025
'Caring for our Environment'

Saturday 24th to Monday 26th May
Flower displays ~ Live music ~ Refreshments

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Paddy Davies (percussion leader)

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School Corner



February has been a busy time in school. We have welcomed many visitors and been on many visits.

The month began with a visit by Classes 1 and 2 to Park End Moss. The children enjoyed the morning looking at the different birds and making tallies. Once back at school children used the information they found to create branching keys, pictograms and block graphs on the computers as part of their learning about data.

Children in Class 2 attended Ulverston Dance Platform. The children have been working hard during their lunch time club to learn their dance about explorers and dinosaurs. All the children performed amazingly and their hard work really showed in their performance.

Class 3 welcomed Imagining History in to school to deliver an interactive and engaging workshop on the Ancient Egyptians. Children recreated key points in Egyptian history including a human timeline and freeze frames.

The whole school celebrated Safer Internet Day where the theme was Too good to be true. The focus was on the safe use of the Internet and how to avoid being scammed. All classes spent time thinking about what too good to be true meant in the games and the activities they played and completed online.

Class 2 attended Gymnastics at Dallam as part of our sports partnership. All the children had a fun morning completing the different activities led by the Dallam students.

Mr Edwards came in to school to talk to children in Years 3 and 4 as part of their science work on rocks. The children were able to handle different types of rocks and learnt more about their formation over time and the properties of these rocks. Thank you to Mr Edwards for giving his time to do this.

As part of their history topic on the Fire of London, Class 2 visited Milnthorpe Fire Station. The children had a great morning learning how to stay safe as well as learning about all the different equipment the firefighters used. They even got to go in the fire engine and try on the protective equipment! Thank you to Milnthorpe Fire Crew for hosting the children.

This month our focus subject is PE

At Beetham all children have at least 2 sessions of PE a week. Throughout the year children learn about different invasion games such as rugby and football, gymnastics, dance and different striking and fielding activities such as cricket and rounders. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 also swim for at least 12 weeks of the year.

We have made some recent additions to our PE curriculum to benefit the children and their learning.

As part of the development of the school field we now have an orienteering course set up and mapped out. This is used during PE lessons as well as providing opportunities for children to use the course during lunchtimes.

Children also have the opportunity to attend two outdoor and adventurous days at a local centre completing activities such as canoeing, paddleboard and rock climbing.

All children in Class 3 complete outdoor swimming sessions in Windermere as well as survival sessions on the waterside.

This year we have also added lacrosse to our curriculum as well as cycling for all ages.

We have a wide variety of sports and activities for children during their PE lessons as well as offering different sports at lunch and after school clubs. We are part of Dallam Sports Partnership where there are at least 6 festivals each year for our children to attend to both take part and try something new as well as compete against other schools.

We are also lucky to be able to welcome different coaches in to our school to not only develop the skills of our pupils but also our teachers and ensure that the sports are able to be sustainable within our school and curriculum.

Best wishes, Abi Johnson

Beetham WI

Beetham WI enjoyed an excellent presentation by Sinead McCann on behalf of the Growing Well organisation at our February meeting.

She outlined the work undertaken at Low Sizergh Farm; how they help people to manage depression, anxiety, mental health difficulties & how to move forward with their lives.




Our next meeting will be our AGM on March 13th, 2 - 4pm upstairs in The Wheatsheaf where our programme for the next year will be revealed! Visitors are always very welcome.

Further details about our WI can be obtained by emailing Jeanette at beethamwi@gmail.com or see information on our noticeboard in the village (at present being renovated but should be back in position soon)



MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION
Friday 4th April, 11.30 - 1pm
BAKING WITH KATE
Wednesday 12th March, 11am - 4pm
CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Monday 3rd March, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 25th March, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 19th March, 11am - 2pm
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Sunday 9th March, 10am - 2.30pm
POETRY CAFE
Wednesday 9th April, 11am - 3.30pm
WRITE BY THE RIVER
Tuesday 11th March, 11am - 3.30pm

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

13 March ~ Angela Harker
 'King Charles III Coastal Path'

27 March ~ Pauline Churchill
 'Lancaster Lunatic Asylum'

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



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March What's On

- Friday 7th March ~ The Holdovers (Film)
- Sunday 9th March ~ Take Wing! (Sunday Music)
- Friday 14th March ~ Murder, Just What The Doctor Ordered (Drama)
- Tuesday 18th March ~ The Importance of Being Earnest (National Theatre Live)
- Saturday 22nd March ~ Jazz Springs to Mind (Saturday Folk Music)
- Friday 28th March ~ Jo Enright (Stand Up Comedy)



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Beetham Parish Council

The Monthly Meeting will be on **Monday 3rd March** at 7pm in **Beetham CE School**
 Members of the public are welcome to attend

Beetham Annual Assembly will be held on Thursday 13th March at **The Heron Theatre**
 Details can be found on the website www.beethampc.co.uk



National Theatre Live

The Importance of Being Earnest
 by Oscar Wilde

a production from National Theatre

Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
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Evening performances start at 7.30pm. Sunday Music 2.30pm.
 National Theatre Live 2pm. Refreshments available
 The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS

The Gateway deadline

Items for the April edition should be submitted by **Monday 25th March**. 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

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Lay Minister/Churchwarden	Vivien Stirrup	015395 64320	vstirrup7@aol.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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