

St Michael & All Angels Beetham
Annual Flower Festival 2025
'Caring for our Environment'



Flower Displays ~ Refreshments

Live Music on Bank Holiday Monday

Saturday 24th May ~ 10.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 25th May ~ 12.30pm - 4.30pm

Monday 26th May ~ 10.30am - 4pm

Free entry - donations welcomed for our Boiler Appeal

Carl Orff's
CARMINA BURANA
Conducted by Geoffrey Field
Kendal South Choir
with Amabile Choirs
and FELLas men's choir
KENDAL PARISH CHURCH
SATURDAY 10th MAY 2025 at 7pm
Emily Robinson (soprano)
Dominic Mattos (counter-tenor)
Patrick Relph (baritone)
Ken Forster and David Battersby (pianists)
Paddy Davies (percussion leader)
Celebrating the 450th Anniversary of the
granting of the first Kendal Royal Charter
Tickets £18 (under 18s free)
via TicketSource, choir members or
kendalsouthchoir.weebly.com
KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL making music ticket source

THE GATEWAY
PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM
MAY 2025
A ROCHA BRONZE AWARD WINNER 2024
ECO CHURCH

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

KEEP CALM AND DANCE AROUND THE MAYPOLE!

Woke before dawn and sauntered over to our lovely neighbour's lawn. "Why Tess?" you may ask. Well, to bathe my face in the magical properties of the morning dew, of course! So began the reminiscing of the traditions of May, once so common place, and now either so few in number or not happening at all.

I vividly recall maypole dancing taking place at my junior school alongside country dancing. Dancing around a maypole or a living tree is an ancient ritual as part of spring to ensure fertility and celebrate spring's arrival after a long winter. Going a long way back it was to celebrate Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers and spring. This dance to signify renewal would be around a tree adorned with intricate floral symbols. The tree or pole represented the male whilst the ribbons and the dance in the round was the female. It was believed the uniting of the two would spur nature on to produce a bountiful harvest and healthy babies.



To this day, practising pagan groups still celebrate Mayday in this way. Easter day is celebrated in churches and they are resplendent with flowers, representing life and light rising from the darkness of lent. Maypole dancing is a visual symbol of love, life, the ever changing seasons, and the importance of flora and fauna in our lives. This is not unique to this country but is performed in Scandinavia and many European countries, primarily Germanic Europe. One of the earliest records of this happening in England is recorded by Chaucer as being at Cornhill, London where the maypole tradition was well established by the late 1300's and a permanent maypole remains there.

in 1588 at Holy Trinity church in Exeter. Chaucer also gave it a mention having seen a maypole at St. Andrew Undershaft in London erected by the people of the parish. So why Undershaft? Until 1517 the corner of St Mary Axe hosted a famous maypole that used to be erected on feast days. This monstrous shaft was taller than the church's tower so the church became known as St. Andrew "Undershaft".

There are many other maypoles across the country varying in size which apparently, in this case, matters. It mattered so much that rival villagers would steal or destroy other villages' maypoles. This led to considerable trouble in Hertfordshire in 1602 and in Warwickshire in 1636. The tallest one I could find is in Berwick-in-Elmet, Leeds. At 27.43 metres it is taken down by hand, re-painted and made ready for spring bank holiday celebrations.

"HOW LOW AM I, THOU PAINTED MAYPOLE?" *William Shakespeare*



But for me, I will always remember dancing round the maypole as a happy time (missing lessons!). To dance in the sun with my ribbon winding around a pole until it was like a huge colourful stick of Blackpool Rock! We were blissfully unaware of any of it's implications and history, enjoying being young and agile. Happy, innocent times!

"MAYDAY, LEI DAY, BAREFOOT PLAYDAY.
SINGING BIRDS, BLOOMING FLOWERS,
NOW WE CAN STAY OUTSIDE FOR HOURS!"

Nell Regan Kartychok

Tess Rowlands

BASKETS FOR BOILERS

A generous friend has made available for me all the necessary components required to assemble a range of hanging baskets designed to beautify your house and garden this summer. You can pre-order yours NOW ready for delivery and display once the risk of night-time frosts has passed. You can choose between rattan cone baskets and hemispherical wire baskets with jute liners. Each has been filled with best-quality plants direct from a Norfolk nursery using peat-free compost. Plants used include Petunia Surfinia (5 colours), Trailing Fuchsia, Pelargonium, Lysimachia, Nepeta, Lobelia, and Bacopa.



These two top images show the newly-assembled baskets this spring: they will now grow rapidly to provide a wonderful display such as seen in the pictures below, taken in July 2024.



Prices: Cone basket £16 Round basket £18

ALL proceeds will go to the Church Boiler Appeal.

Stock is limited: order yours now by phone or email as below

Payment in advance, please, in cash or via BACS to PCC OF BEETHAM

Barclays Kendal 20-45-28 20160504

I will notify you when the baskets are ready for collection (probably mid-to-late May).

John Lomax

j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

015395 62648 or 07713 162 730

I also have TOMATO plants available in several varieties:

Gardener's Delight, Shirley, Tumbler etc.

Plants just £1 each or 6 for £5

Available NOW - order as above

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear friends,

With the beginning of May, the season of Spring will have lavishly decorated the countryside with flowers and greenery. Wherever we look, whether in fields, hedgerows, verges or in our gardens, the signs of life and vitality in the natural world will be richly evident; as the priest, and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins once wrote: 'nothing is so beautiful as spring'.

One of the plants strongly associated with the month of May is the hawthorn, known also as the 'May tree', given that it's blossom typically appears at this time of the year. Long understood as an ancient symbol of fertility, with its leaves and flowers often featuring in May Day garlands as well as being regularly incorporated into the architectural motif of the mythological Green Man. Aside from this, one other well-known legend associated with the hawthorn relates to the town of Glastonbury in Somerset, where - long before its name was known because of the globally-renowned musical festival - it was said that it had been the location for a rather special visitor.

This concerned the fabled arrival of Joseph of Arimathea, the wealthy disciple who in the aftermath of the crucifixion had offered his own tomb for Jesus' burial, and who - according to medieval legend - was said (following the resurrection) to have come to Britain and planted his staff at the top of Glastonbury Tor which had then subsequently sprouted into a hawthorn. The so-called 'Glastonbury thorn' (or 'holy thorn') is still widespread in that part of the country, despite the assumed 'original' tree being cut down and burned as a relic of superstition in the mid-seventeenth century during the years of the Civil War. It was Joseph, so the legend continues, who founded Glastonbury Abbey, hence its long-held claim to be the oldest religious community in the land, and for many years a major site of pilgrimage where many miracles are said to have taken place.

Indeed, so influential was the myth of Joseph of Arimathea's time in Britain that is forever memorialised in the seemingly confusing words of William Blake's poem 'Jerusalem', drawing on the additional dimension of the legend that Jesus himself may have visited Glastonbury with Joseph, and so 'walked on England's mountains green'. Something to remember when you next hear it sung!

Of course, the second half of Blake's poem, goes on to reflect on what it might mean for us to consider our role in making God's reign and rule, his kingdom come on earth, a reality in our own lives and communities. We are summoned not to nostalgia about the past but hope for the future; to see ourselves as part of God's response to the needs of the world, in words and deeds that make his life and love credible in our own day.

This is of course part and parcel of what we reflect upon during the weeks of Eastertide, these days of finding ourselves at the empty tomb of Jesus and considering what it means for who we are, what we are about, and ultimately where we are headed. Easter confronts us with the challenge that - in Christ - all things are made new, that our lives and the world can be changed, when we are open to the activity of God and the workings of his Spirit.

It is gloriously right that Easter should keep us guessing and asking questions, jumping out on us from behind the apparently locked door of time and possibility as we often understand them. Easter is always best understood as a gift, a surprise present from the world's creator, summed up best in three words. Three words take us by surprise year-after-year, three words which turn sadness into hope, doubt into faith, grief into joy, death into life. What are they? Christ is risen.

Alleluia!

With every good wish and prayer,

As ever,




St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for May 2025

Date	Time	Service
Sun 4th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP* Evensong
Weds 7th	10am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 11th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 18th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 25th	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong

Please see weekly Pewsheets for details
*Book of Common Prayer



Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

11th - 17th May 2025

Christian Aid Week is seven days of action - giving us opportunity to fund lasting change and life-saving support across the world. Our donations will help families overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

Any support or generosity you can give will be gratefully received.

Thank you very much!

Donation envelopes will be available at the back of church.



Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering

10.30am, Sunday 8th June
in St John's Church, Levens

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

St Michael & All Angels Beetham The Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

will be held in church
at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13th May
Please note the change of date!

The Annual Report & Accounts will be available at the back of the church or to download from our website at www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

PET SERVICE

A celebration, thanksgiving & blessing of our pets



Sunday
1st June at 2:30pm
Park House Farm, LA7 7EB



Furry, feathered, scaly, big or small - all God's creatures (and their humans!) are welcome

Short service followed by refreshments

Outdoor/indoor depending on weather!



Free parking @ the farm

More info: revhannahwallace@gmail.com


REST & RESTORE

A time of prayer for healing & wholeness

St James Church Arnside

6:15 - 7:00PM

MAY	JUL	OCT	DEC
TUES 6TH	TUES 1ST	TUES 7TH	TUES 2ND



Beetham Band

"SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN..."

Happy May dear Reader, 'sumer is icumen in...' indeed. Also known as the Summer Canon and the Cuckoo Song, this ditty was top of ye olde pops around the mid 13th century. Its meaning is obvious. Summer has come and we have certainly had the weather to back this up. That and our diaries overfloweth! We are currently enjoying compiling our summer playlist with slight tweaks here and there depending on our venues.


It is lovely performing music outdoors, but it is not without its challenges which are normally weather related. The slightest breeze can cause chaos as band members hastily reach for their clothes pegs to keep their music on their stand. During Summer we can be seen performing in anything from shorts to sweaters, from factor 50 and extra hold hairspray. Male members included! So you will see Beetham Community Band popping up here and there joining in the celebrations of Summer.

This year marks 80 years since VE Day. The war years and conflicts throughout history always had music with them. Music to march to, sing along to and be entertained by. A welcome respite, evoking memories of home and engendering hope in the future they were fighting for.

So, we shall play with all those who have gone before us in our hearts and minds and be grateful.

"OUR FLAG DOES NOT FLY BECAUSE THE WIND MOVES IT. IT FLIES WITH THE LAST BREATH OF EACH SOLDIER WHO DIED PROTECTING IT" *Unknown*

Tess x
07725580095



Lab legends:

Get hands-on with Science

Get ready to dive into the world of science. You'll mix up some chemistry experiments and explore biology like a true scientist. Get hands-on experience with cool equipment like Bunsen burners and microscopes. Who knows what amazing discoveries you'll make in the lab?

Date: 17/06/2025
Time: 12.30pm - 3.00pm
Closing date for booking: 20/05/2025

Step Up to Dallam

Dallam School is inviting local primary schools to take part in a series of hands-on creative sessions as part of its *Step Up to Dallam* programme. The events are designed as outreach sessions for primary school children, and the first booking deadline is 9th May for children to join author and CBeebies star Joseph Elliott

Date: 13/06/2025
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Closing date for booking: 15/05/2025

Feel the beat:

Explore African music and mixed media

Step into art and music with two high-energy creative sessions. Feel the beat with our African drumming session, where you'll learn how the Djembe drum is used in West African music. Have a go at playing it yourself. After the music, get creative with painting and masterpieces to take home too.

Date: 13/06/2025
Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm
Closing date for booking: 15/05/2025

Get a-Head in maths

Book Dallam School Headteacher Mr Henneberry to come to your primary school and teach a lesson. Get ready to multiply the fun—this session is sure to add up to a good time!

Available throughout the school year. Please enquire.

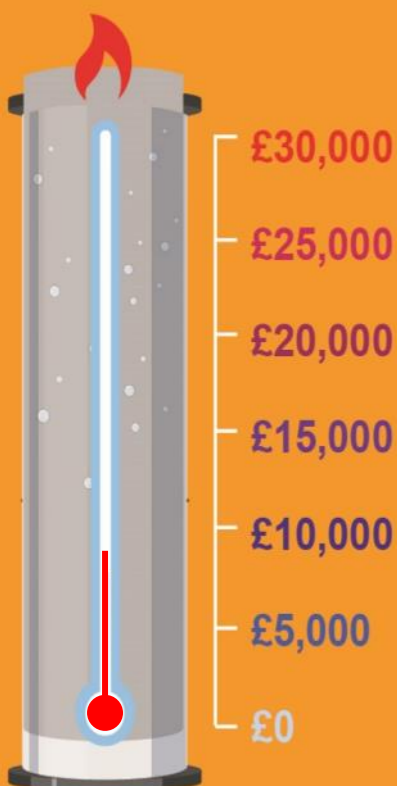
Meet the author:

Joseph Elliott's storytelling adventure

Join author and CBeebies star Joseph Elliott for a fun afternoon of storytelling. He'll introduce his characters and share the secrets of how he brings his stories to life. You might even get to ask him a few questions - plus, a signed book is up for grabs!


Date: 06/06/2025
Time: 12.30pm - 3.00pm
Closing date for booking: 09/05/2025

St Michael & All Angels HEATING APPEAL



Our fundraising for the replacement of our ailing church boilers continued last month with a **Table Top Sale** in church on Saturday 5th April. With appreciative thanks to all who organised the event, donated items for the sale, and who purchased goods on the day, a wonderful total of over £830 was raised. This brings the grand total for the Boiler Appeal to **£8550.70**.

During May please do support our fundraising events over the Bank Holiday weekends - the **Beetham Duck Day** and the **Annual Flower Festival**. We are also grateful to Dorothy and Andy Macleod for hosting regular **Coffee Mornings** in church from June:-




Parish Coffee Mornings - date for your diary

From June we will be starting a monthly Parish Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in church

The first date will be Tuesday 3rd June at 10.30am. Please do join us for refreshments and a chance to chat - all are very welcome and feel free to bring a friend

No charge but any donations will be gratefully received for our heating appeal

Any donation small or large would be gratefully received. Please scan the QR Code for direct donation to Beetham Church. St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7AL





Sandy's Cross

This Easter marked the tenth anniversary of the tradition of decorating 'Sandy's cross' with daffodils on Easter Sunday. The cross was made by The Revd Canon Sandy Lofthouse, who retired here and regularly ministered at St Michael & All Angels - as well as being enthusiastically hands-on in looking after the fabric of the church.

Sandy made the cross for his parish at Helsington, but at the suggestion of his family it was brought to Beetham in July 2014 after Sandy sadly died. It was then at Easter 2015 that The Revd Linda Lonsdale proposed that each member of the Easter Day congregation was given a daffodil to place on the cross, through a netting cover kindly set up by Ian Stirrup every year

The custom has continued each year and we are very grateful to Dianne Lomax for again donating the 100 daffodils. Thanks also go to Woodlands Nurseries for being able to source the daffodils so late in the season this year!





christian aid

Lent Soup Lunch

We were delighted to be joined by five pupils from Beetham CE School at our Lent Soup Lunch in church on Wednesday 2nd April. The pupils expertly waited on the tables and chatted to the customers, creating a lovely welcoming atmosphere. Donations were for Christian Aid and a magnificent total of **£117.60** was raised, which will be added to the Christian Aid Week giving this month

You're invited to a Big Brunch!


christian aid

Do want to help change the world?

Saturday 17th May 2025

11.00am - 1.00pm

Methodist Church Hall
(Chapel Lane, Arnside)





Passiontide and Eastertide at St Michael & All Angels

The celebration of Mothering Sunday was started with the making of daffodil posies with the Beetham pupils at school. Thanks then go to the team who made the daffodil posies to give out to all members of the congregation on Mothering Sunday. During Passiontide and over Easter a special Beetham Easter Trail around the village was created by Revd Hannah, which attracted many enthusiastic young participants, who were able to complete the activities and find their way to an Easter egg prize in church at the end of the trail

Palm Sunday began with a procession from the school and distribution of palm crosses in the church. The morning service included the dramatized reading of the Passion according to St Luke. In the evening, 'The Way of the Cross' was a service of readings and hymns for the start of Holy Week. Thanks go to all readers who took part in both services

During Holy Week, the meaning and prayerfulness of Passiontide and Easter was observed through quiet services of Holy Communion and the Liturgies of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the lighting of the Easter fire, and the blessing of the Paschal Candle, led by Revd Andrew

Thank you to all the flower arrangers for helping to celebrate the glory of Easter Day. Particular thanks go to Dianne Lomax, and the Townsends, Stirrups and Lancasters for their Easter garden displays in the Nave, Lady Chapel and outside the main entrance. Thank you also to Geoff Field and the choir for filling the church with such wonderful music in celebration of Easter


School Corner

This month is all about our Class 2 trip to Tower Wood

Children in Class 2 visited Tower Wood, on the shores of Lake Windermere, at the start of the new term.

The children were ready for their two-day adventure in to the wild!

Canoe making was the first order of the day. To ensure the canoes had maximum stability two were joined together. To complete this children had to collect two open canoes and join them together using rope and timber. Once connected the children then launched their rafts in to Windermere and paddled along its shore.

Later on, the children were set the challenge to climb a very large tree. Initially the children were assisted by a ladder but once at the top they were left with climbing hand and feet holds. Once children reached their target point they then abseiled back down the tree to the ground.

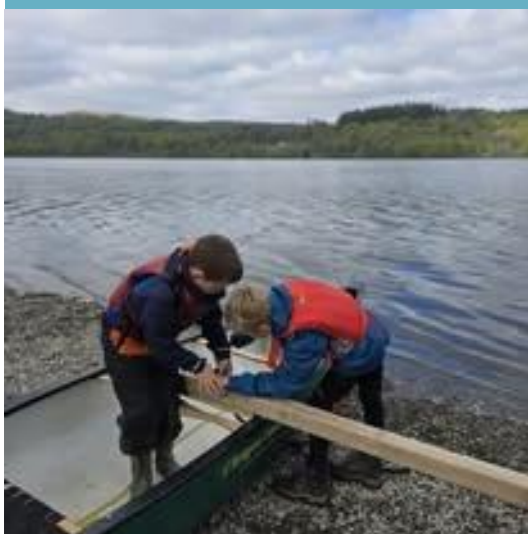
On day two children went on a nature walk up to Orrest Head. Children were able to take in the nature around them and follow the Julia Donaldson sculptures.

To conclude their adventure the children were able to try out Archery. Children learnt how to feed their arrows on to their bow and ensure they aimed correctly - all the time learning about safety too. Children aimed at targets and collected scores which improved with every arrow.

The two days were wonderful opportunities for children to experience the world and area we live in; develop new skills and also challenge themselves with new activities.

All the children were really enthusiastic and tried their best. Thank you to all the children and adults for making the two days an amazing experience.

Best wishes, Abi Johnson



Beetham WI—Keeping Busy this Spring

In early April, ten members wearing high-viz and gardening gloves took part in the 'Great Cumbrian Litter Pick'. The Arnside & Silverdale Landscape Trust kindly lent us litter picker tools, and together with bin bags, members set off in various directions around Beetham village and beyond. It was good to see that there was not a lot of rubbish to be found around the village but far too much had been thrown onto the kerbs and blown into bushes at the side of the A6! It was amazing what we collected in an hour or so! We all met up afterwards at The Heron Corn Mill for a welcomed cuppa sitting outside in the sunshine.



A variety of books from classics, fiction and non-fiction were reviewed by some members at our Book Social during our monthly session at The Wheatsheaf. A 'Book' quiz followed which had everyone thinking up a variety of answers!

Our newly restored Noticeboard is now back in position between The Wheatsheaf and Old Post Office in Beetham and is looking very smart. We are very grateful to Keith Wootton for doing such a thorough job of drying it out then working on it to ensure it is now well protected against the fungi and weather. Aply assisted at times by Diane, we are sure that it will continue to be used by the WI for many more years to come.



Our next get-together will be at The Athenaeum in Heversham on Thursday 8th May 2025 from 2 to 4 pm when we shall be having-a-go at Circle Dancing led by Helen Brooks. We are sure it will be a fun afternoon! Guests are very welcome to come and join us, for a small contribution to include refreshments.

Advance notice of our Thursday 12th June meeting where we will be back in The Wheatsheaf for a Talk entitled 'A Brief History of Lancaster Moor Hospital' by Gary Bradshaw. Again guests are welcome. Information can be found on our Noticeboard in Beetham village or you can contact Jeanette, our Secretary, at beethamwi@gmail.com

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HERON WAIN - MILL - HYDRO

MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION

Friday 6th June, 11.30 - 1pm
BAKING WITH KATE
Wednesday 28th May, 11am - 4pm
CRAFTING WITH ERIKA
Monday 27th May, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 20th May, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 21st May, 11am - 2pm
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Sunday 18th May, 10am - 2.30pm
NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND - Free Entry!
Saturday 10th May, 11am - 4pm
WRITE BY THE RIVER
Wednesday 14th May, 11am - 3.30pm

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Eversley Choir

Ian Jones (Conductor) and Rob Rainford (Accompanist) present

Shakespeare to Shearing
Settings of English poetry

With Sam Weakley (baritone) Accompanied by Fiona Weakley

Sunday May 11th at 3:00 pm
Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall LA6 1JP

Tickets £15:00 including refreshments (free for children/students)
Available from choir members, on the door or online at eversleychoir.org

Beetham Parish Council
Next meeting will be in Beetham CE School
Monday 12th May 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

RSPB
Local Makers Market at RSPB Leighton Moss Silverdale, LA5 0SW

Support local artists and makers at our new monthly Local Makers Market. Browse and shop beautiful pieces, made in or inspired by the local area.
17th & 18th May (10am - 4pm)

Event is free to attend, but normal admission applies if also visiting the reserve. For more info: Call 01524 701601 or email leightonshop@rspb.org.uk

K SHOES MALE VOICE CHOIR

Invite you to An evening of male voice choir singing
Songs for all, to gladden your hearts
At Gaskell Memorial Hall Silverdale
Saturday 24th May at 7-30 pm

Tickets £12-00 on the door
or in advance £10 via QR Code, choir members or website - www.kshoesmvc.org

Refreshments Great Raffle

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

Sunday 4th May ~ Sam Rodwell & Emily Howard (Sunday Music)
Friday 9th May ~ Little Women (Drama)
Tuesday 13th May ~ Dr Strangelove (National Theatre Live)
Saturday 17th May ~ Out and Out Blues Band (Saturday Music)
Friday 23rd May ~ The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist (Drama)
Sunday 1st June ~ Rosamund Brass (Sunday Music)

Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
email: boxoffice@theherontheatre.com ~ tel: 015395 64283
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 June edition should be submitted by **Monday 26th May**

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

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

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or email

j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

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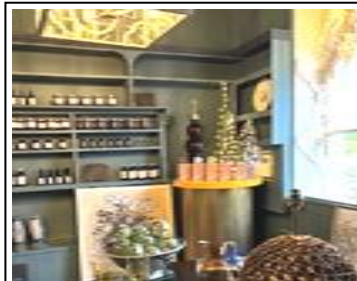
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Edith Anice

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

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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**