



Flower  
Festival  
2026

# THE GATEWAY

Parish Magazine of  
St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

June 2026

“The pageant of the river bank had marched steadily along, unfolding itself in scene-pictures that succeeded itself in stately procession. Purple loosestrife arrived early, shaking luxuriant locks along the edge of the mirror whence its own face laughed back at it. Willow-herb, tender and wistful, like a pink sunset-cloud was not slow to follow. Comfrey, the purple hand-in-hand with the white, crept forth to take its place in the line; and at last one morning the diffident and delaying dog-rose stepped delicately on the stage, and one knew, as if string music has announced it in stately chords that strayed into a gavotte, that June at last was here” Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

The Church Annual Flower Festival this year was based on the theme ‘In Celebration of Music’. Flowers and music have had a long association with one another, and have inspired composers for centuries. Roses in particular have been the inspiration behind many classical compositions and modern day songs, but many other flowers represent the art of music either through their symbolic meanings or their visual resemblance to musical instruments.

Lily of the Valley is often used to symbolize the purity of music, with their graceful bell-shaped flowers being compared to the movement of notes on a musical stave.

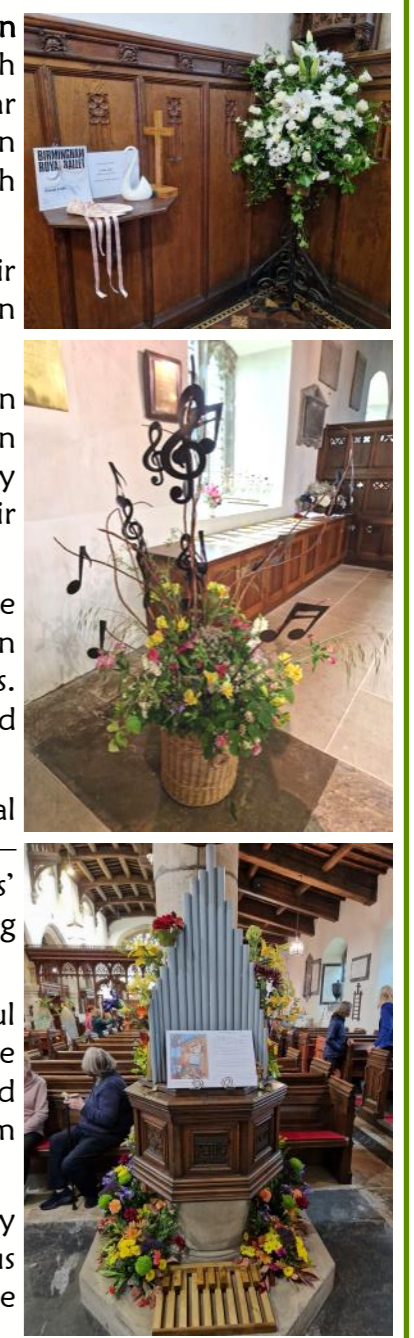
Fuchsias have a trumpet-like shape and were a popular decorative plant in Victorian times for musical events and performances, and sometimes given to musicians as a sign of appreciation for their musical talents. Similarly Sweet Pea petals are said to resemble the shape of a violin, and their delicate scent is compared to the sweet melodies of music.

Flowers that represent music due to an association with their name include Violas, Trumpet Vine, Bluebells and Bellflowers, the latter with the Latin name *Campanula*, with a clear link to ‘Campanology’, the study of bells. Many other flowers are bell-shaped, such as foxgloves, penstemons and fritillaries, and enjoy varieties with musical names.

The flower arrangers for the Festival took full advantage of the musical associations and filled the church with stunning and imaginative displays—ranging through musical instruments, classical compositions such as Delibes’ *Flower Duet* and Haydn’s *The Seasons*, and more recent music including *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sing a Rainbow*.

Over 250 people visited the Festival and £1,150 was raised, with grateful thanks to all who organised the event, arranged the flowers, provided the very welcome refreshments in such hot weather, stewarded the event, and played live music with the Beetham Community Band and the Beetham Handbell Ringers.

The Festival theme of Music was chosen as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the installation of the Beetham Church organ. Please join us in marking this special anniversary on 5th September, with details available in next month’s edition of *The Gateway* and tickets on sale from July.



Jenny Marks

## Letter from the Curate

### Anyone else finding it hard to believe it's June already?!

You may or may not know that the month of June is named after the Roman goddess Juno who was associated with women, marriage, family and children. While I'm not one to dwell on ancient Roman religion (of this kind), this factoid did make me think about some modern day 'goddesses' - the Mothers' Union - who are celebrating 150 years this year! The Christian faith, of course, centres, not on mythological figures, but on the love and grace of God, but it's interesting that the themes traditionally linked with June/Juno are also deeply connected with the caring, nurturing and faithful service shown by members of the Mothers' Union today.

The MU is a worldwide organisation whose vision is to see a world where everyone prospers. They actively pursue this through prayer and faith in action - seeking to bring about justice, challenge prejudice, and advocate change. They do all this from a foundation of Christian faith - seeking to support and transform local communities. Their mission is lived out through support for families, outreach to vulnerable communities, parenting programmes, campaigning against domestic abuse, and offering friendship and hope to those who may feel isolated or forgotten.

The title might suggest that it's a group of women (mothers, you'd think) who make up the Mothers' Union. However, from its humble beginnings in 1876 when it was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by a vicar's wife called Mary Sumner, it has grown into a global movement with, now, 4 million members across 84 countries - not all mothers, and not even all women.

On 10th June, there will be a special service held in St Paul's Cathedral in London to help mark their 150th anniversary. Closer to home, the MU in Cumbria are celebrating by holding a families weekend in July at Rydal Hall. And, even closer to home, the local branch of the MU - based in Milnthorpe - is seeing an opportunity to raise awareness of this wonderful organisation in the local area. If you would like to know more, then do be in touch with the branch leader, Marion (details at the end of the article). All are welcome at the monthly meetings!

Whether through supporting young families, visiting the lonely, knitting for those in need, fundraising for charitable projects, or simply offering a listening ear,... the Mothers' Union here in the Kent Estuary demonstrates faith in action in many quiet and faithful ways. In many ways, the members of the Mothers' Union are the modern-day goddesses - not figures of legend, but real people quietly transforming lives through faith, kindness and service. St James writes about this in the bible:

*'...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.'* (James 2.17)

All Christians are called to live out their faith in active ways. In a world that can often feel dark and uncertain, the witness of organisations like the Mothers' Union shines as a reminder that loving service, rooted in Christ, still changes lives. We give thanks for 150 years of faithful ministry and pray for God's continued blessing upon the Mothers' Union in the years ahead.

With love & prayer

Hannah

To find out more, go to - [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org). Contact local MU branch leader, Marion Douthwaite on 07950 807007 or [secretarymu@outlook.com](mailto:secretarymu@outlook.com)



### St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for June 2026

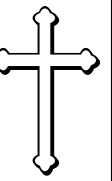
Date	Time	Service
Weds 3rd June	10.30am	BCP* Holy Communion
Sun 7th June	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 14th June	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 21st June	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 28th June	10.30am	KEMC Gathering Storth
	6pm	BCP Evensong

Please see weekly pewsheets or website for further details

\*Book of Common Prayer

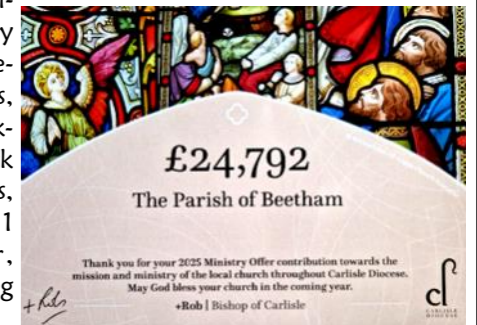
### Funeral

Tuesday 26th May  
Gladys May James  
May she rest in peace



### Carlisle Diocese Ministry Offer

We have received thanks for this year's Ministry Offer contributions. Ministry Offers across the Diocese have funded 72 full-time stipendiary clergy, 7 house-for-duty priests, 5 family workers, 8 network youth ministers, 5 pioneers, 1 administrator, and training posts



**Kent Estuary Mission Community**  
Sharing God's Love in Christ

**Gathering**  
Sunday 28th June 2026  
10.30am  
at the **Heron Hall, Storth**  
(all being well we'll be outside)

*We come together as churches across the Kent Estuary to unite in worship and prayer together.*

**ARNSIDE**

crafts & activities

food (including a meal)

**Messy Church**

fun

stories & music

**Friday 12th June 2026**  
3.30pm - 5.30pm  
Arnside Methodist Church

**REST & RESET**  
Christian meditation  
A moment to press pause !!  
St James Church Arnside  
6:15 - 7:00PM

**2026 Dates**

JAN TUES 6<sup>th</sup> MAR TUES 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY TUES 5<sup>th</sup> JUL TUES 7<sup>th</sup>

**REST & RESTORE**  
A time of prayer for healing & wholeness  
St James Church Arnside  
6:15 - 7:00PM

FEB TUES 10<sup>th</sup> APR TUES 14<sup>th</sup> JUN TUES 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings 2026

Thank you to all who attended the Church Annual Meetings on Sunday 3rd May. The meetings are an opportunity to formally look back on the last year, receive the Church Annual Report (copies available on our website), vote for church representatives for the forthcoming year and give thanks for the work of God's church here.

The following were elected at the Annual Meetings and the May Parochial Church Council (PCC) to serve in various church offices:-

*Churchwardens* ~ Viv Stirrup, John Lomax and Peter Lever

*Deanery Synod representatives* ~ Viv Stirrup and Jane Lever

*PCC Treasurers* ~ Andy and Dorothy MacLeod

*PCC Secretary* ~ Charles Ellis

*Safeguarding Officer* ~ Andrew Skinner

*Electoral Roll Officer* ~ Jenny Marks

We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this way and to all those - both seen and unseen - who help to support our ministry and church here at St Michael & All Angels.

### Beetham Church Organ 150th Anniversary

Saturday 5th September  
2-4pm

Afternoon Tea

with

Music from Geoff Field and friends

A History of the Beetham Organ

A look inside the organ and how it works

Tickets £10

Available in July from the Friends of Beetham Church Committee

or via Ticketsource

**Walking The  
KENT ESTUARY PILGRIM WAY**

A spiritual 'footprint', a touch of history, a breath of fresh air

Join us for a 'pilgrimage experience' walk on the Kent Estuary Pilgrim Way. Make of it what you will: a chance to look and listen, to reflect on the past and the present and on the beauty of the landscape, or just a short afternoon social walk with others.



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** ~ Levens Methodist Church  
to St Peter's Heversham

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July** ~ St. Peter's Heversham  
to St. Thomas' Milnthorpe

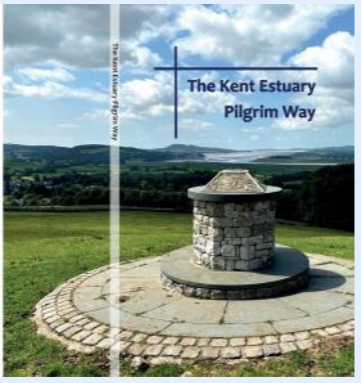
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** ~ St. Thomas' Milnthorpe  
to St. Michael & All Angels Beetham

Family-friendly: children and dogs are welcome  
All walks start at 2pm  
Return transport can be arranged  
Copies of 'The Kent Estuary Pilgrim Way' are available in the local churches price £6

**The Kent Estuary Pilgrim Way**

Guidebook available from the Church Bookstall and retail outlets

**Price £6**



**Flower Festival Congratulations**  
to Brian Smalley & Dennis Wright!




**JUDGES NOTES**

Harmonious balanced colour mix, and sophisticated asymmetrical shaping.  
Unobtrusive and secure mechanics, with meticulous workmanship.  
Intelligent interpretation of the theme, involving the imaginative incorporation of bells to create an exciting interactive experience for the spectator.

**Beetham's Big Duck Day ~ 2nd May**

Once again dozens of yellow ducks raced down the River Bela, cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd hoping to win the heats and get into the Grand Final to win the top prize of £100 cash. The weather was kind, the river was flowing well, race tickets sold out, and the many stalls run by the Friends of Beetham School did a roaring trade.

Thanks go to Mr & Mrs Gardiner for allowing us to use Ellers Meadow, to the Friends of Beetham Church for organising the event and selling tickets, Brian and Ian for manning the A6 crossing, all the duck catchers in the river, the duck launcher, the duck runner, the race recorder, and of course the Revd Andrew for his wonderful commentary throughout the event!

We are grateful to all those who donated prizes, including Beetham Nurseries, The Heron Theatre, Daniel Gray Hairdressers, The Old Beetham Post Office Tea Room, The W heatsheaf, and Kendal South Choir.



**"JUNE IS A LOVE SONG WRITTEN BY NATURE" *Patience Strong***

Hi-de-hi dear Reader! June is busting out all over Beetham. It began just before June with the Flower Festival over the Bank Holiday. The theme was Music, prompted by our organ celebrating 150 years since its installation. I doubt it has ever been as well played as it is now by our musical director Geoffrey Field and, of course, Jenny. We really are very lucky that such a small village has so many musical outlets. Whilst the world seems to be getting stranger every day, music is the medicine we need. A universal language made up of black dots on a page or just exploring sound through its many mediums. The Flower Festival was wonderful as always and our Community Band played so well and, what's more, thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

**"I'M GRATEFUL THAT MUSIC HAS BEEN A PLACE WHERE I'VE FOUND FREEDOM" *Valerie June***

You may have noticed dear Reader that I always use quotes. They are useful for reference or setting a tone. Music is both medicine and magic to me. For example how we came together, especially on the Saturday to perform and enjoy some time together over lunch. Magically after our lovely trombonist had to move away, along came another to join us. It is like she has always been with us! It is as though we have a brass section revolving door as also, after that Saturday, we have another new member starting very soon. Hurrah!! The more the merrier. It was almost like Mariah had come early. If you have ever wondered, what is it like being part of BCB, is it as warm and fuzzy as Tess implies??? Well here are a few words from one of our lovely players.

**A player's experience of playing in Beetham Band**

"I have been playing in Beetham Community Band for about two years. I love it! I came with no experience of playing in bands and no instrument and now here I am playing [not all of] the notes on the baritone horn, part of a very inclusive, welcoming bunch of Saturday morning people. We meet at 10.30 [not too early] and play till 12 noon. It's all very easy breezy. You don't feel any pressure, it's ok to miss band practice if you can't come. We have gigs throughout the year, mostly in the Beetham area. We make a great noise, playing all kinds of music – swing, blues, jazz, rock, classical, big band, songs from the musicals, ballads, country. 100% recommended."

So why not give it a go? I shall look forward to hearing from you. Much love as always, Tess, 07725 580095

**Beetham Band**

**Parish Coffee Morning**  
**Tuesday 2nd June**  
**10.30am-12pm in church**



Please do join us for refreshments and a chat!  
All are very welcome.

There is no charge but any donations will be gratefully received for maintenance of our church

Thank you also to all the Beetham residents who created such imaginative 'duckorations' around the village and congratulations to all the winners.



This month's report documents some of the extra-curricular provision that the school provides.

### Tower Wood by Harriet and Ivy M (Class 2 pupils).

This year's Tower Wood residential has been the best so far. First on Thursday morning, I said goodbye to Dad with tears in my eyes but I knew that it was going to be fine. First, we went tree climbing with our harness and helmets. I got to go first.

In the afternoon, we were going on canoes. After a lot of preparation, we finally set off on to the water. We paddled up the lake and stopped after a while to play some games. We set off back but there in the distance hail stones bounced off the water and we knew it wasn't safe. We quickly paddled back to shore on the nearest beach. We huddled underneath the tarpaulin. It was really hot in there whilst the hail stones hit the top. When it was all finished, we paddled back and put the boats away. Some people chose to jump off the jetty.

Then we went to bed.

Our next activity was ghyll scrambling. We had to drive in the bus. While in the ghyll some people fell in. My friend lost her welly so the instructor had to jump in to get it.

In the afternoon, I went climbing. We jumped off the Leap of Faith. I was scared but I overcame my fear and did it!

### London by Mark Ryan (Chair of Governors).

Earlier this month I went with Class 3 to London to visit the Natural History Museum, the London Eye, and the Houses of Parliament. The trip was planned to coincide with the class learning about how our laws are made, the role of MPs, and democracy in our country. In addition to the Houses of Parliament, we also saw the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst and Scotland Yard which prompted additional conversations on this subject. The Natural History Museum exhibitions we visited coincided with the class learning about volcanoes, earthquakes and evolution, and other sights we saw were The National COVID Memorial Wall and the Battle of Britain memorial.

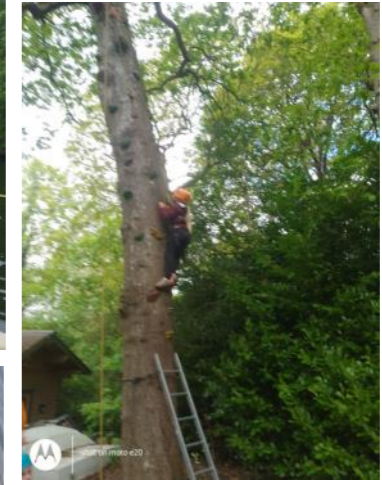
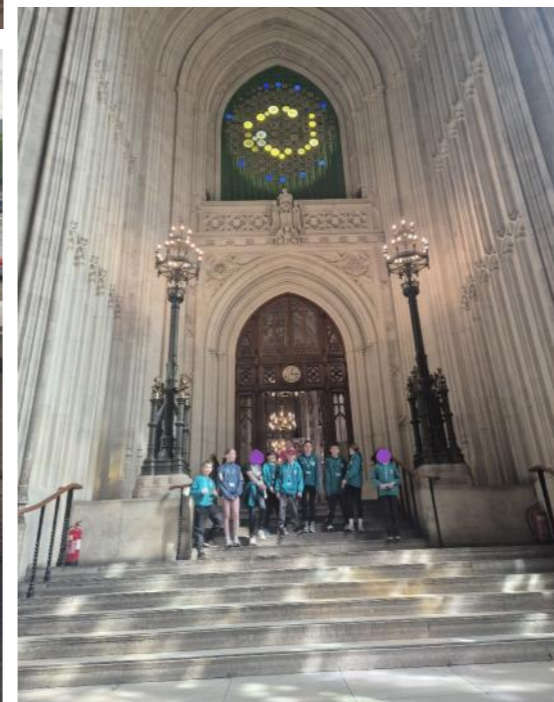
It was fascinating to see the children experiencing the wide cultural variety of London, from the tube and its noise and bustle, to buskers and a piper at Westminster.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day out with Class 3, whose behaviour, without exception, was impeccable. Whilst the SIAMS inspection recognised that the school Christian vision shapes the daily life in school, it was clear to me that the love, perseverance and respect the children exhibit extends outside of school to each other and to the public they interact with. In the Natural History Museum, it was a proud moment when a member of staff from another school, unprompted, came to me to say how polite our children were.

Returning home, our journey was somewhat prolonged due to train cancellations, but despite being tired the children showed tremendous resilience in dealing with a long journey and multiple changes, and I was proud of them throughout. Thanks to Mrs Klijn for her impressive organisation which led us through London to get to the right places at the right time.

Best wishes,  
Abi Johnson

# School Corner



**Beetham WI ~ Even though some of us don't knit . . .**

We were all really impressed when we went to see the unusual touring exhibition - "The Longest Yarn" - at Rheged in April. The 80-metre, 3D knitted and crocheted exhibition entitled "Britain at War" was crafted by hundreds of volunteers from around the world. Each of the 80 clear-boxed panels commemorated life and events during the Second World War. There were also 8 life-sized figures, completely dressed and accompanied by knitted items, representing ordinary people who contributed to the war effort.

Though the exhibition has moved on from Penrith it will be staged at different locations around the country during this year and next. Details and more photos can be found on their website: [www.thelongestyarn.com](http://www.thelongestyarn.com). Recommend 'zooming in' on photos to see the incredible handiwork in detail.

For our monthly meeting in May, Stewart Lambert from Kitriding, Kirby Lonsdale came to talk to us about diversification and farming. There is a Tea Room with food and craft products at the farm, so worth a visit - details at [www.kitridingfarmshop.co.uk/visit/](http://www.kitridingfarmshop.co.uk/visit/)

For our June session on the 11th we are having a 'members only' Craft Session.

But do keep an eye out on our Noticeboard for future Talks when guests are welcome to attend and if you'd like to know more about our WI, contact us on [beethamwi@gmail.com](mailto:beethamwi@gmail.com)



# AMERICANA

**Levens Choir** Choral music from the USA celebrating 250 years of US Independence.

Music Director: Gawain Glenton  
Soloist: Rebekah Nießer-Jones

St John's Church  
Silverdale, LA5 0RH  
7:30pm Sunday 5 July 2026  
St Anne's Church  
Ings, Kendal LA8 9PY  
7:30pm Tuesday 7 July 2026

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**Beetham Village Facebook**  
A dedicated facebook group for Beetham village  
Search for "Beetham Village Cumbria"



art dance music film  
**the HERON theatre**  
June What's On

- Friday 5th June - The Ballad of Wallis Island (Film)
- Sunday 7th June - South Lakes Acapella (Music)
- Friday 12th June - Fake (Magician & storyteller)
- Friday 19th June - I'm Still Here (Film)
- Saturday 20th June - Kedu (Jazz)
- Friday 26th-Sunday 28th June 25th Anniversary Weekend

Anniversary Event: Double Feature  
**More Than A Match** (Silent film with live pianist)  
**Amélie** (15) - 25th Anniversary re-release  
Friday 26th June 7.00pm

Anniversary Event: Family Entertainment Indigo Theatre  
**Gaby Gulliver's Travels**  
Saturday 27th June 11.00am & 2.00pm

Anniversary Event: The Flight of the Heron  
**theCOMPANY & Michael Lunts**  
Saturday 27th June 7.30pm

Anniversary Event: Open Day  
Event 1: Eberle String Trio & Burnt Horse  
Event 2: **theCOMPANY & PoVo Jazz**  
Sunday 28th June 12.00pm & 3.00pm

Book tickets online [www.theherontheatre.com](http://www.theherontheatre.com)  
email: [boxoffice@theherontheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@theherontheatre.com) ~ tel: 015395 64283  
Evening performances start at 7.30pm. Sunday music 2.30pm.  
Refreshments available  
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- Childrens Fancy Dress
- Famous Tug of War

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5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY - 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST - 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
10:30AM - 12:30PM  
ADULTS £4.50 CHILDREN FREE

Whilst urgent repairs to the mill launder take place, you are invited to join in on these fascinating walks through the local landscapes, listen to stories filled with knowledge, myth and folklore! Medium terrain, good footwear a must. You will arrive back at the barn for Foodie Friday, in time to buy fresh bread, cakes and other goodies!

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[WWW.HERONMILL.ORG](http://WWW.HERONMILL.ORG)

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FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
1.00PM - 3.00PM  
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email jenny.marks@btinternet.com or visit our website for more information

**St Michael & All Angels FABRIC APPEAL**

St Michael and All Angels exists to worship God, to share the love of Jesus Christ and to serve our wider community in his name. Our ancient and beautiful church building is at the heart of the parish and village of Beetham and is open to everyone. In looking to the future, various parts of our church fabric are in pressing need of repair and restoration, and we would appreciate your support in helping us make this possible. Might you be able, out of your kindness and generosity, to help us preserve this cherished Grade 1 listed building? Thank you

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

**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

**The Gateway deadline**  
Items for the Summer edition should be submitted by **Monday 22nd June**. Please email articles to jenny.marks@btinternet.com. View deadlines online at www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk