

Beetham Village Coffee Morning Tuesday 6th October 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 the maintenance of our church

The Friends of Beetham Church present Dessert Island Discs

Friday 9th October, 7 for 7.30pm
Heron Corn Mill Barn



Join our celebrity castaway as they share
the soundtrack of their life!

Tickets £15

to include Hot Pot, Apple Crumble & Drinks

Available from Dianne Lomax on 015395 62648

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham Harvest Festival



Sunday 4th October

11.00am - Harvest Eucharist

6.00pm - Harvest Hymns and Readings

We will be inviting donations to help support the valued
work of our local **Milnthorpe Area Food Bank**,
these can be left at the back of church.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



St Michael & All Angels, Beetham Remembrance Sunday 8th November

The Act of Remembrance will take place
at the Beetham Village War Memorial
(assemble at 10.50am)
followed by the Remembrance
Eucharist in church



THE GATEWAY

Parish Magazine of
St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

October 2026



Autumn - The Season of the Soul

The last article that I wrote for The Gateway was entitled 'The Joy of Spring' and came out in March this year. I can't believe that we are more than 6 months on from there and have entered the Autumn season. I have always said that Spring is my most favourite season, the season of renewal with longer days, warmer temperatures and the feel of energy flooding into every growing thing. Each season carries a different energy. For me Autumn is the time for reflection, slowing down, preparing for the shorter days and colder temperatures. It's a time for gratitude for all that spring and summer have given to us. I strongly believe that following the rhythm of nature is the most natural way of living. The growth cycle is ending, and nature is retreating, drawing energy back to its roots. Autumn is a beautiful and nostalgic time of year that can hold a deep spiritual meaning for many.

As we move through the Autumn months nature slows down. The landscape changes, at first displaying fiery foliage of scarlet, orange and copper before settling down into shades of brown and grey as winter approaches. In the natural world, it's the season of release, of letting go. Trees shed their leaves, plants return to the earth, and animals begin to prepare for the colder, quieter months ahead. This is the time for us to recognise and understand the signals being given to us by nature, it's a time to take inspiration and advice and slow down our own lives. Just as trees let go of leaves and draw energy back to their roots, we too should discharge what drains our energy and instead nurture and care for ourselves with practices that soothe and bring inner peace. Autumn is a natural time for quiet and rest, letting go of old ways that weigh us down and have the potential to damage us, it's a time for preparing for the slower rhythm of the winter season.



Autumn reminds us that endings are necessary in order for new beginnings to occur, it's just part of nature's life cycle. Both the darker and the lighter parts of the year create the balance needed in the cycle of life. Nothing can grow forever without cyclical rest and regeneration - and neither can we. So why don't we think about the season of Autumn as an important and personal reminder to each one of us to slow down, rest and recuperate. Let us realise that there is a beautiful ebb and flow to the natural world and apply that principle of nature within ourselves. As we enter the season of the year when light surrenders and darkness takes over let us remember that after this restful time, nature will welcome again the vigour and energy of regrowth.

"Delicious Autumn, my very soul is wedded to it" ~ George Eliot

Viv Stirrup

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear friends

At the end of September I was asked, rather at the last minute, to take a wedding at Jesus Church in Troutbeck. And it was a joy, as weddings always are, to help and support Imogen and James as they began their married life together. If you've never visited Jesus Church before, then I'd heartily recommend it, not least because its only one of two churches in the whole of the Church of England that bears that designation (the other being found in Enfield).

The first record of the church is found at the beginning of the sixteenth century, though the building was only consecrated in 1562 as a place of worship. And, though little of that original church remains, as the main building and western tower were rebuilt in 1736, it remains a very picturesque, quintessentially lakeland structure. The building is perhaps most celebrated today because of its tremendous stained glass east window, dedicated in 1873, designed by the celebrated Victorian artists, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Ford Maddox Brown.

The window is exceedingly detailed and, upon entering the church, a visitor is immediately faced with a blaze of sumptuous colours and intricate detail. It consists principally of five large lights and a further smaller fourteenth lights displaying various biblical scenes, all worthy of admiration and study. Though, I'd suggest that the most interesting detail are the four small windows with a particular local character, given that they rather playfully depict a host of trout swimming in the nearby beck. A vision of the things of earth being reflected in the splendour of heaven and the reminder that the ordinary, everyday things of our lives are of infinite importance to God.

This is, of course, something that we have particular reason to call to mind as the weeks of autumn stretch ahead of us through our celebrations and thanksgivings for Harvest. That moment in the church's year where, in the words of Psalm 65 (verse 11), we're reminded that the Lord 'crowns the year with his goodness'. Harvest offers us the opportunity to record our gratitude for the work, efforts and industriousness of those, both locally and further afield, who help to provide for our daily needs and on whom we depend for our daily bread. And, whilst the work of farmers, fisherman and food production, is a year-round endeavour - it is good and right to acknowledge the blessing that they are to us for all that they do.

This call to thanksgiving is even more important in an agricultural year that has brought uncertainty, exhaustion and loss for so many farming families. The consequences of the unprecedented levels of heat (and accompanying lack of rain) our land has witnessed over recent months; challenges us to consider the pressing environmental challenges we are increasingly facing because of humanity's failure to steward the resources of the earth faithfully. A rather sobering reality that should prompt us to weigh more carefully both our habits of life, knowing that our decisions (shopping habits, energy consumption, lifestyle choices) - small though they might sometimes seem - affect others.

We know this because, as the Bible makes clear and the ministry of Jesus evidenced, we are all made in the image of God and thus created for interdependence with one another, with our neighbours both near and far. Those whom we know and love, and those whom we will never see though share life together. At Harvest we have the chance to make our response, both through our prayers and our charitable giving to acknowledge and remember just this.

As the words of the hymn encourage us:

*'Lord of the fertile earth who caused the world to be,
whose life alone can bring to birth the fruits of land and sea,
teach us to use aright and share the gifts you give,
to tend the earth as in your sight that all the world may live.'*

With every good wish and prayer for the Lord's blessing,

As ever,

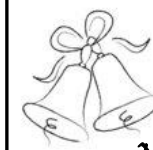
Andrew



St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for October 2026

Date	Time	Service
Sun 4th Oct	11am	Harvest Festival
	6pm	Harvest Hymns & Readings
Weds 7th Oct	11am	BCP* Holy Communion
Sun 11th Oct	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 18th Oct	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 25th Oct	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 1st Nov	11am	All Saints Eucharist
	6pm	All Souls Service

Please note later time for Weds Communion this month
Please see weekly pewsheet or website for further details
**Book of Common Prayer*



Wedding

*The marriage of
Nikita Fairchild & Stephen Armstrong
took place on Saturday 12th September*

*We wish the happy couple Faith, Hope & Love
in their future lives together*



Harvest Festival 2026

As well as inviting support for
The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest
Appeal, we are also encouraging
physical donations of food for the
important and valued work of the

Milnthorpe Area Food Bank

*Thank you very much for
your help and generosity!*

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

All Souls Service

Sunday 1st November
at 6.00pm



*An opportunity to
remember and give
thanks to God for all
those whom we love
but see no longer.*

*If you would a loved one remembered by name in
prayer at this service, please write their name on
the list of names at the back of church. Thank you.*

Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering

Thank you to all who supported the KEMC joint
service at St James' Arnside on Sunday 13th
September. The next joint services will be an
Evening Service at Heversham on **Sunday 15th
November** and a KEMC Eucharist on **6th December**

'A Fair Share' The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal 2026



Once again we are inviting support
for the work of The Bishop's Harvest
Appeal, supporting the work of
Christian Aid

in Burkina Faso

The Church Mission Society

in Northern Argentina

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/harvestappeal



"ONE DAY YOU WILL WAKE UP AND THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE TIME TO DO THE THINGS YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED. DO IT NOW"
Paula Coelho



In my younger days, not too long ago, I thought I had plenty of time to discover my passions and interests and look forward to when I could spend all my extra time indulging in my favourites. Ha!! Life had a different plan for me though, as it has for us all. But out of everything I am pleased I persevered with music and over the years it has always given me more than I could ever have imagined.

Today, we had the most lovely time playing for the Dementia Walking Group at Arnside Methodist Church. We were joined by 'Friends of Beetham Band', who have played with us since we formed but have greater and previous commitments with music on the Fylde Coast. Always a joy to get together. Thanks girls! Call me biased, but we played so well. Even our conductor, Viv, was amazed at our attentiveness

"MUSIC PRODUCES A KIND OF PLEASURE WHICH HUMAN NATURE CANNOT DO WITHOUT" *Confucius*

We have been very lucky of late to attract some new members. Once again I have asked for a few words from one of them about joining Beetham Band...

"I was initially very hesitant about joining. Being a relative newcomer to both reading music and to playing an instrument, I was concerned that I wouldn't be good enough. I'm so pleased that I did join this lovely little community band. Everyone has been extremely friendly and supportive. There is no judgement. You just come along and do your best. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning; practising an eclectic mix of well known music for our intermittent gigs, whilst simultaneously improving and benefitting from the experience and musicianship of my new band mates."

Well, I cannot add to that, other than to remind you that we practice most Saturdays from 10.30am until 12pm in the beautiful St Michael and All Angels Church in Beetham.

For any more info just call. 07725580095.
 Tess x

Being Beetham – reflections of an offcomer

I'm very proud to have my name on the board of vicars at Beetham Church. Of the nine churches in which I've served it is the only one to have honoured me in this way. Just as surprising was the presentation made in August when I took Evensong at Beetham for the last time. Well, you might think, there's nothing unusual about a clergyman taking a service at church on a Sunday. What is unusual is for a priest to be invited to return to 'active duty' in a church where, in the past, he has been the parish priest.

Mary and I arrived at Beetham in 2009. Mary had had radical surgery in Cambridge two years earlier and the outcome was uncertain. We needed to strike out in a new direction and I wanted it to be in the North West. We had met as teenagers at Tattenhall, near Chester. We went to school together, shared youth hostelling holidays in the Lake District and finally married in the village church in 1969. We both went to university in London, bought our first home in Kent and finally settled in Cambridgeshire. After 30 years in the Diocese of Ely, it seemed like a miracle to be offered the post of priest in charge (house for duty) at Beetham in the Diocese of Carlisle.

We loved our three years in the Parsonage and in August 2009, with the help of Canon Lofthouse, we renewed our marriage vows in church on our 40th wedding anniversary. Most of our family live in the Ascot area, but when it came to full retirement in 2012, there was no question of going south again and we moved to Whittington. Then in 2018 Mary had further invasive surgery and in spite of the best medical care, she died at home in March 2022.

So it was that ten years after leaving the parish, I went back to Beetham for help. I just couldn't imagine Mary's funeral being anywhere else. Revd Andrew was very generous in supporting my plans for her service, even welcoming two clergy friends from Blackburn Diocese to share in the funeral eucharist. Since Mary's death, I visit Beetham twice a week. On Friday mornings I go to the new cemetery to tidy her grave and say a short graveside service. And on Sunday evenings I join the lovely congregation for Evensong. But now, 17 years after coming to Beetham, and as I approach my 80th year, I'm on the move again. Fosbrooke House is an 'independent living' facility for clergy and church workers at Lytham and offers appropriate accommodation for a single man facing the vagaries of old age. I think Mary would chuckle to see this unreformed southerner settling down to retirement by the Lancashire seaside!

I have been very fortunate to share in the life of Beetham Church as vicar and then, ten years later, as a member of the congregation. Thank you to everyone at St Michael and All Angels for your love and care in times of joy and loss; it is your kindness and generosity through the years that makes Beetham still feel like home.

Andrew Schofield

Organ 150th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

Our organist wearing white 'keyboard' socks and our priest sporting a pinny and blue marigolds set the fun and relaxing atmosphere for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the installation of the Beetham Church Organ on Saturday 5th September. Over 80 people attended the Afternoon Tea and were treated to a delightful mix of music - from Bach's famous *Tocatta & Fugue in D minor* and Mussorgsky's *The Great Gate of Kiev*, to *I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside* and *Tea for Two*.

We are very grateful to Geoffrey Field for creating such a fascinating programme of music that demonstrated the power and versatility of the organ, and how organ music has developed over the ages. Cameras were set up so that the audience could see Geoff in action - not normally visible on a Sunday morning - in a whirlwind of playing the two organ manuals and changing stops with his hands, whilst also playing the pedals with his feet. There were many comments expressing astonishment at how both mentally and physically demanding playing the organ can be - and whether Geoff's intricate footwork made him a contender for Strictly Come Dancing!

We were also delighted that Geoff was joined in a number of duets during the afternoon, and it was lovely to welcome Wendy Nicholas back to Beetham to hear her well-known musical talent in playing a variety of both classical and light music duets with Geoff on the piano. The Revd Canon David Peacock then surprised a number of people in the audience by displaying his hidden musical talent for piano playing - whilst pointing out that Geoff was a very good teacher for 'geriatrics'! Finally, Jenny Marks joined Geoff at the organ for a duet of the *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*.

The sides of the organ casing were removed for the afternoon so that everyone could see inside the organ and learn more about it's history and how it works. This particularly prompted some interesting remarks about the size of the windbox and feeling sorry for the person who would have had to pump the bellows manually before the organ was electrified...

A big thank you goes to all who provided food for the afternoon tea, and all those who helped to serve, steward the event, and run the hamper raffle. A special thank you goes to Revd Andrew for his tea-making and washing up skills!

Thanks go again to Geoff, Wendy, David and Jenny for such an entertaining afternoon and for helping to raise over £1,000 for church funds.









Celebrating 25 Years of the Beetham Church Heritage Trust

Please join us for 'Silver Jubilee Cake' and a glass of wine after the Morning Service on
Sunday 11th October

There will be an opportunity to learn more about the work of the Heritage Trust and the Friends of Beetham Church in raising money for the church

OPEN DAY

You're Invited!

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1.30pm Christmas Crafts

Join us to make Christmas craft to either take home or help to sell for school funds.

Come and join in alongside our children - we welcome family members new and existing as well as members of the community to come along.

There will also be opportunity for a tour of the school for parents who would like to take a look around.

We look forward to welcoming you! ♥

Could you serve as a... Foundation Governor

Why do we need you?

Beetham Church of England Primary School currently has two vacancies for Foundation Governors to join our welcoming, committed and enthusiastic Governing Body.

What would you do?

Foundation Governors, like all the other governors, help to develop a vision and strategy for the school. They oversee how the school spends its money and make sure the Headteacher is doing their job. Foundation Governors are appointed by the foundation that has a close connection to the school. At Beetham, this is the Church of England. Foundation Governors ensure that the school's foundational vision and ethos is maintained and enabled to flourish.

What is the commitment?

Governors meet for a couple of hours in the late afternoon around 6 times throughout the year. Governors also regularly undertake monitoring visits in school, having opportunity to learn more about different parts of school life and so report on these for the benefit of the whole Governing Body.

Who can do it?

Foundation Governors are nominated by the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham, and anyone is eligible providing that they are supportive of and in sympathy with the Christian foundation of our School. You don't need any formal training or an educational background, just a desire and willingness to help support the life and flourishing of our school now and into the future.

How do I find out more?

Please have a word with Father Andrew (a.norman@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk) or Mark, the Chair of Governors (m.ryan@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk) for a conversation or for more information. They will be very grateful to hear from you!

School Corner



It has been a busy and exciting start to the term, with everyone settling into their new classes, learning new routines and embracing the opportunities of a new school year.

At the beginning of term, Class 2 enjoyed a visit to the Westmorland County Show. The children had a wonderful day exploring the trade stands, learning about the animals on display and gaining a greater understanding of rural life. We were also fortunate to enjoy dry weather throughout the visit!

This term, all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have been attending swimming lessons at Carnforth, where they are developing their stroke techniques and learning important water safety skills.

Class 2 have also visited the British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre in Halton, where they learned about the retraining process for horses following their racing careers. The children enjoyed a range of hands-on experiences, including grooming the horses, mucking out stables and trying on different pieces of tack.

Another highlight for Class 2 was joining Home Instead's community singing event at Beetham Nurseries. Children enthusiastically performed a selection of classic songs alongside favourites from our summer production.

Meanwhile, Class 1 have been learning about where we live through the Morecambe Bay Curriculum. As part of their studies, they have been introduced to Beetham Bear, who is keen to embark on adventures of his own. After reading about Eden Bear's visit to Happy Mount Park, the children took Beetham Bear to follow the same trail and enjoyed exploring the local area together.

It has certainly been a busy start to the school year, and we look forward to sharing many more learning experiences and exciting activities with you throughout the term.

Best wishes, Abi Johnson



September News from Beetham WI

We had very interesting Talk with slides presented by Victoria Morris about her incredibly long walk from John O'Groats to Land's End in 2017. Instead of following the usual direct route, she walked 3,500 miles zigzagging across the British mainland to climb the highest points of all the 91 historic counties, which took her 211 days. An amazing achievement! Her book about this event is currently out of print but more information can be found about her journey - and some of her other challenges - on her website: <https://mappamorris.co.uk> She raises money for Mental Health Research UK and Mountain Rescue England & Wales.



Our Secretary, Jeanette, did a grand job behind the scenes helping the Cumbria & Westmorland WI Federation in getting ready for the display of exhibits made by members - including herself and Gail - in the marquee at the Westmorland County Show.

For our monthly social later in September, nine of us met up at Sizergh Castle for a walk followed by afternoon tea, where there was much chat and laughter as we sat out on the veranda in the sunshine.

We have a 'Games Social' for our October meeting in The Wheatsheaf which should be a relaxed afternoon session.



If anyone would like more information about our WI, do contact Jeanette via the email: beethamwi@gmail.com



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Friday 6th November, 11.30am - 1pm
HANDS-ON BAKING
Wednesday 21st October, 11am - 4pm
HANDS-ON CRAFT
Monday 5th October, 1 - 4pm
CRAFTERNOON
Tuesday 27th October, 1 - 4pm
POWSOWDIE
Wednesday 14th October, 11am - 2pm
FOODIE FRIDAY!
Friday 6th November, 1 - 3pm
AUTUMN LUNCH IN THE BARN
Saturday 17th October, 12 - 2pm

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Sing in Exultation

Kendal South Choir
Christmas Concert
Conducted by **Geoffrey Field**

Andy Plowman (organ)
Wendy Nicholas (piano)

7.30pm, Saturday 12th December
Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal

Schubert ~ *Mass in G*
Benedetti ~ *Gaudete, exultate*
Christmas Choral Music
and traditional carols for audience participation

ticket source Tickets £15 (under 18s free)
via TicketSource, choir members, or kendalsouthchoir.weebly.com

Beetham Parish Council Meeting
Beetham CE School
Monday 5th October 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.beetham-pc.gov.uk

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

the HERON theatre
art
dance
music
film

October What's On

Friday 2nd October - *Sentimental Value* (Film)
Sunday 4th Oct - *Flanders & Swann* (Music)
Friday 9th Oct - *That Knave, Raleigh* (Drama)
Tuesday 13th Oct - *James McNeill Whistler* (Exhibition on Screen)
Saturday 17th Oct - *Sugarfoot* (Saturday Music)
Saturday 24th Oct - *Animal Farm* (Drama)
Sunday 1st November - *Marie-Louise Taylor* (Piano)

Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
email: boxoffice@theherontheatre.com ~ tel: 015395 64283
All evening performances start at 7.30pm; EoS at 2pm; and Sunday Music at 2.30pm. Refreshments available
The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS

Quest
TALKS FOR ALL

A friendly group, meeting at the Athenaeum Village Hall, Leasgill, LA7 7ET

Thursday 8th Oct ~ Ron Blackburn
'The Red Squirrel'
Thursday 22nd Oct ~ Steve Barrett
'Unidentified Flying Objects'
All talks start at 10:00am
Annual subscription for 12 meetings, including refreshments, is £18.
Guest tickets for individual meetings £3. No need to pre-book.
Enquiries to Adrian Tayer: aptaylor@gmail.com

the prayer course
An eight-week journey through the Lord's Prayer...
Wednesday 30th September
7th, 14th, 21st October
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November
12.30 - 2.15pm
at Arnside Methodist Church Hall
An opportunity to come together and help grow and deepen our lives of prayer - as individuals and as part of the wider church.
Please, if you would like to, bring some lunch!

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fun
stories & music
Friday 9th October 2026
3.30pm - 5.30pm
Arnside Methodist Church

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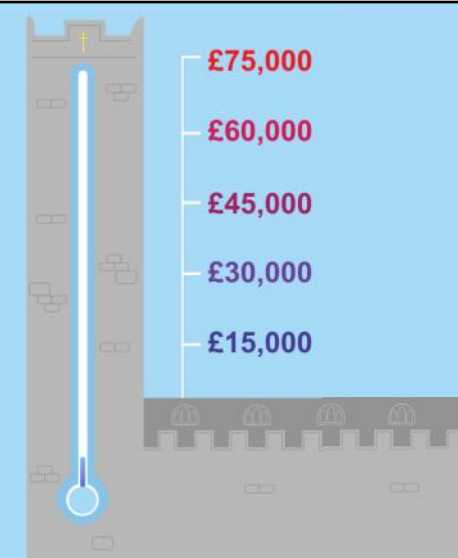
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St Michael & All Angels **FABRIC APPEAL**

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

Priest-in-Charge	The Revd Andrew Norman	015395 62355	revdabn@gmail.com
Curate	The Revd Hannah Wallace	01524 449035	revhannahwallace@gmail.com
Lay Minister	Chris Roberts	015395 63019	lainyandchris@aol.com
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Churchwarden	John Lomax	015395 62648	j.d.lomax@btinternet.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**

The Gateway deadline

Items for the November edition should be submitted by **Monday 26th October**. Please email articles to **jenny.marks@btinternet.com**. View deadlines online at **www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk**



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