



**Beetham Church
Organ
150th Anniversary**

**Saturday
5th September
from 2pm to 4pm**

AFTERNOON TEA
with
Music from Geoff Field & friends
including a look inside the organ and how it works

Tickets £10
from Jenny Marks on 015395 62559
or jenny.marks@btinternet.com
or via [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/)

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

**Beetham Village
Coffee Morning**
Tuesday 1st September
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

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

Michaelmas
celebrating our Patronal Festival



Sunday 27th September

11.00am - Patronal Eucharist

6.00pm - Patronal Evensong

*'...look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!'*



THE GATEWAY

Parish Magazine of
St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

September 2026

How and Why?

I suspect we are all guilty at times of taking things for granted more than we perhaps should. Perhaps we miss out by not finding out. Sometimes when I ask lots of questions, I am reminded of a verse by Rudyard Kipling:

*I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.*

In early April this year we saw the Artemis II mission, which provided incredibly spectacular pictures of both earth and moon as seen from space. I also noted that re-entry to the earth's atmosphere reached speeds of nearly 25,000 miles per hour. That seems really fast, but is a bit difficult to visualise. It actually works out to nearly 7 miles per second, which really made me think.



On August 12th we had the solar eclipse, which proved to be a profoundly moving moment for many.



On September 23rd this year we shall have the autumn equinox, which marks the point when day and night are equal in length. As such, it also marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

Each of these events causes me to wonder a little more about the earth and our relationship with both sun and moon. And how do we predict all the regular planetary movement within the universe? The sheer scale of it all is truly mind-boggling and something we could easily take for granted without really wondering what it's all about. I recently found this nugget written by a relatively unknown amateur astronomer:

*I often think about the sun
And all the planets in the sky
And when the world was first begun
And then I wonder. How? And Why?*

Plenty of people have posed theories as to how the universe was formed, but far fewer as to why. Either it's all a huge accident, or it isn't. The church does offer answers to lots of the really big questions about life and existence, even if many of life's mysteries still remain. Come along to Beetham Church if you'd like to find out more. As well as the traditional Sunday services each week (although Sunday 13th September is at Arnside as one of the quarterly joint services for our local churches), we also have Coffee Mornings on the first Tuesday of each month. Each occasion generates lots of conversation and laughter on all sorts of subjects, both great and small, whether that be recipes, favourite places, cricket, Tour de France tactics, or if talking to plants really does make a difference.

Happy September everyone, and keep curious.

Andy MacLeod

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Letter from the Curate

As I sit down to write this, I'm enjoying the feeling of having just witnessed a once-in-a-generation event. 12th August saw a solar eclipse that crossed parts of the northern hemisphere with much of Europe experiencing a partial if not full eclipse.

The rather beautiful eclipse (even if more beautiful on the video footage online than in the somewhat cloudy Arnside) highlighted just how dependent our world is on light. For a short time, the moon came between us and the sun, and daytime became strangely dim. The sun had not disappeared - it was still shining – the moon could not blot out the light completely - but our view of it was temporarily obscured.

There is something wonderfully Christian in that image. The opening of the Gospel of John contains these words -

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1.5)

We live in a world where it can sometimes seem as though the light of God is being eclipsed. The news brings us stories of wars and suffering, political uncertainty, extreme climate concerns and divisions within all manner of communities. Closer to home, people may be carrying private worries that nobody else can see. At times, faith itself can feel dim or distant. But an eclipse reminds us that although something may be hidden, it doesn't mean it isn't there.

The sun may sometimes be hidden from our sight, but it continues to shine. As does the Son of God. Jesus Christ describes himself as the 'Light of the world', and is recorded to have said later in John's Gospel...

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (John 8.12)

The Christian life is not exempt from darkness. Rather, the hope of the Christian faith is that darkness doesn't have the final word, and that light shines more powerfully.

Perhaps that is a helpful thought as September begins. We may not be able to control everything that happens in the world around us at this time or what the coming (academic) year will hold, but we can choose where we look for light. So, as we begin a new season - as the nights draw in and the days lose some of their light - may we remember that Christ's light is not overcome by any shadows. It remains faithful and strong no matter what our life circumstances.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

With love and prayer,

Hannah



Beetham Church goes fully LED

We are delighted to report that following a successful grant application to the Diocesan Quick Wins Net-Zero Fund all our lighting in the church has been upgraded to LED, with grateful thanks to Robert Gunn for his installation expertise. As well as making a difference to the brightness of the lighting around all areas of the church it is hoped that the change will also help to reduce our electricity bills and reduce our carbon footprint.

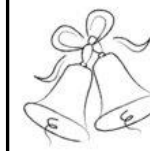
If you have not already switched to LED bulbs at home this would be a good time to change ahead of the dark winter nights.

St Michael & All Angels Beetham Church Services for September 2026

Date	Time	Service
Weds 2nd Sept	10.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sun 6th Sept	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 13th Sept	10.30am	KEMC Eucharist Arnside
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 20th Sept	11am	Parish Eucharist
	6pm	BCP Evensong
Sun 27th Sept	11am	Patronal Eucharist
	6pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 4th Oct	11am	Harvest Festival
	6pm	Harvest Evensong

Please see weekly pewsheet or website for further details

**Book of Common Prayer*



Wedding

*The marriage of
Noun Richardson & Blake Russell
took place on Saturday 22nd August*

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



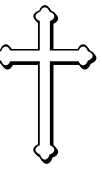
Celebrating 25 Years of the Beetham Church Heritage Trust

Please join us for celebration refreshments
after the Morning Service on
Sunday 11th October
and to find out more about the roles of
the Beetham Church Heritage Trust and
the Friends of Beetham Church

Funeral

**Thursday 6th August
Valerie Pearson**

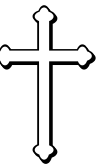
May she rest in peace



Service of Thanksgiving

**Friday 24th July
Shirley Grimshaw**

May she rest in peace



Kent Estuary Mission Community Gathering

**Sunday 13th September
10.30am**

at St James', Arnside

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



A time of prayer for
healing and wholeness

Tuesday 8th September

6.15-7.00pm

at St James' Church, Arnside



*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!





"RAINBOW COLOURED FLOWERS KISSED WITH EARLY MORNING SUN
THE ASTER AND THE DAHLIA AND WILD GERANIUMS
DROPS OF MORNING DEW STILL LINGER ON THE IRIS LEAVES
IN THE MEADOW WHERE I'M WALKING IN THE EARLY MORNING BREEZE"
Early Morning Breeze, Dolly Parton 1971

Happy September dear Reader! Is everyone warm enough? Is there anything left in your garden? There is one thing the weather cannot interfere with and that is music. It influences it without a doubt on a seasonal basis. I will not wheel the great Mariah out just yet I promise.

But before I wander much further, I need to acknowledge the passing of Dolly Parton. I was nine years old when I heard that song and walking in the early mornings with my dad at the weekend were some of the best times. That song seemed composed for us. She was much bigger than any song, but it was through her music she could follow her philanthropic calling. We should all be a bit more DOLLY.

"FIND YOUR RHYTHM. WHETHER YOU'RE PLAYING, SINGING OR LISTENING TO IT, MUSIC HAS THE POWER TO LIFT OUR SPIRITS, EASE OUR BODIES AND CONNECT US WITH OTHERS. DISCOVER HOW MUSIC COULD BE EVERYONE'S KEY TO HEALTH AND HAPPINESS" *Emma Haines, Lifestyle Magazine.*

Although those words are not mine they must sound familiar to you by now. Time and again the proof that music has so many benefits keeps coming up. Music bypasses ordinary means of communication. It enables. It does not disable. Community music in any form is so powerful and fulfilling. I will continue to champion it, being grateful of its benefits for so long. It has always been there when other people, health and life fell by the wayside.

So, to paraphrase Dolly, "here I go again, and here I go, here you come (and join us) again....!" We commence band on the 5th of September, 10.30am. Practice is at St Michael and All Angels Church in Beetham. Why not pop in or give me a call on 07725580095 for a chat.

I will sign off with Dolly's latest and last recording. She says it allover to you Dolly R.I.P and thank you.



"YOU KNOW, WE'RE LIVIN' IN TROUBLED AND UNCERTAIN TIMES. YEAH WE SURE ARE.
BUT WE CAN'T LET THE DARKNESS WIN. IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP.
YES, ' CAUSE I CAN SEE THE LIGHT OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING. CAN YOU?"

With much love as always
Tess Rowlands

Pulling out all the stops

A 'stop' can be found on an organ and each stop covers different pipes and sounds. Using a stop enables an organist to turn off (literally 'stop') air getting into a particular pipe and therefore control many combinations of sounds. Pulling out all the stops allows the maximum air into the pipes, giving the powerful richness of music often associated with church organs. Nowadays the phrase has become a common expression to refer to maximising impact.

A recent survey of pipe organs identified that sadly 5 church organs are being removed every week, and a further 4 each week are no longer played. In 1915 there were 40,000 pipe organs. There are now less than 15,000 working pipe organs in Britain and only half in regular use, as organists and organ tuners become more scarce and churches close.

Surprisingly, the organ is also responsible for the phrase *'bells and whistles'*, originating from complex theatre organs imitating many different musical instruments. Bells themselves have given rise to many common expressions ~ *rings a bell, with bells on, clear as a bell, as sound as a bell, and going like the clappers* to name but a few.

Like the organ, bellringing is also an ancient musical art most commonly associated with churches. Here at Beetham we are very lucky to have a ring of six towerbells, and a set of 37 handbells, all in good working order and regular use. We enjoy ringing for many different occasions ~ most recently on the towerbells for Noun and Blake's joyous wedding in August, and on the handbells for the residents and staff at Elmsfield House ~ and we are about to start practicing for Christmas!

We want to maintain all these traditions for future generations so if you would like to have a go at ringing either towerbells or handbells please contact Jenny on 015395 62559 or see the church website for details.




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.





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!

'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.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/harvestappeal







Village Sports

Beetham & Hale Village Sports was held on Saturday 25th July. Despite being in the middle of a record heatwave, sadly the day itself was overcast and damp and numbers were lower than previous years.

Undaunted, the Friends of Beetham Church joined the many other stallholders and caterers around the field. The children's fancy dress opened the proceedings, followed by the children's and adults races. Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling took place in the centre of the field, and the Beetham Community Band provided musical entertainment, including their now famous rendition of *Chariots of Fire* as the fell runners set off.

Congratulations to Carl for taking on the compère role this year and a big thank you to all the Sports Committee members for their organisation of another successful event. See you all in 2027!

New Burial Ground Work Party

Thanks go to all who joined the Burial Ground Work Party on Tuesday 30th June. It was a hot day, but the volunteers enthusiastically cleared paths, cut back overhanging branches and restored some old graves. The burial ground offers our community a place of tranquillity and is regularly visited by many people paying respects to relatives or just seeking a moment of peace or prayer. All are invited to spare an hour to help keep the burial ground tidy for future generations.








School Corner

We rounded off the school year in July with a host of exciting outings, activities and celebrations across the school.

Our Year 6 pupils attended a Junior Citizenship session at Kendal Fire Station, where they learned basic lifesaving skills from all three emergency services.

Class 3 completed their final sailing sessions and successfully achieved their RYA Stage 1 qualification. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Arnside Sailing Club for delivering these sessions. Class 3 also enjoyed a memorable residential visit to York, where they learned about Viking longships and took part in archaeological activities, bringing their history learning to life.

Class 2 visited Arnside Coastguard to find out how the team helps keep people safe around Morecambe Bay. The children gained a fascinating insight into the important work carried out by the Coastguard. Meanwhile, Class 1 made the most of the sunny weather by creating roads and water runs in the garden using large construction equipment. They also prepared a delicious afternoon tea for parents, complete with homemade cakes and sandwiches.

Year 6 pupils were delighted to welcome Milnthorpe Family Hub, who visited the school to make pizzas with them. To round off the year, Classes 2 and 3 enjoyed a bowling and laser tag trip, while Class 1 had a wonderful day out at Greenlands Farm.

We said goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. During their final church service, they shared some of their favourite memories of their time at Beetham School and reflected on the friendships and experiences they have enjoyed. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to their new schools.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the school at Beetham Sports. It was a fantastic community event that brought people together and celebrated teamwork and participation.

During the summer holidays, we held two Grounds Days to improve our outdoor areas. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped revamp the back garden and tidy the school grounds. A special thank you goes to Kent Estuary Young Farmers, who joined us for our final Grounds Day as part of their charitable work. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and seeing their reactions to all the exciting changes.

If you would like to support Beetham School, there are many ways to get involved. We welcome volunteers, prospective school governors and supporters of our fundraising efforts. You can help through Easyfundraising, where retailers donate to the school at no extra cost to you, or by joining our Hundred Club, a £4 monthly draw with cash prizes.

For more information, please contact us at admin@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk or telephone 015395 62515. We look forward to another exciting and successful year ahead.

Best wishes, Abi Johnson



Beetham WI - What a glorious Summer!

At the end of June, four of our members went for a shaded walk in the heatwave from Levens Hall whilst the rest of us opted out and retreated to the welcome coolness of the café to await their return! How many at our July meeting went home and had another look at their wardrobe following the enlightening Talk we had about Recycling Textiles by Katharine Banks, a member of the Waste Prevention Team?



We had a successful home-made Cake Stall at the Village Sports Day which, as you will all know, the weather decided to change on that day! Thanks to all our members who made the delicious variety of cakes, helped with the packaging, setting up the stall and overseeing the sale. Thank you, also, to the Sports Committee for letting us join in with the village event again and for the use of the welcomed shelter.

Those members that wanted to go to Leighton Hall for our 'Summer Trip' took advantage of applying for a local resident discount card in advance. We enjoyed an interesting, guided tour of the house, watched the Bird of Prey display on the lawn, some walked part of the shaded forest trail then around the flourishing walled garden before we all finished off the afternoon with refreshments outside the café in the sunshine. More details about a visit to the Hall can be found on their website at www.leightonhall.co.uk. For our August session, we had a social get-together at Farletonview Tearoom sharing transport again or a pleasant cycle along the country lanes for those that only took 2 wheels to get there.

An Open Meeting on **3rd September** (a week earlier than usual because of the Westmorland Show) when visitors are welcome to attend to listen to a **Talk by Victoria Morris** about her journey from **Land's End to John O'Groats** - £5 contribution includes refreshments. Our **October** session will be a Social for members only and includes some sort of Games! (*It would appear we do a lot of socialising!*) **8th October** is an Open Meeting with a **Talk by Roger Jones** entitled '**Tales of a Vet**'. It will start at **2pm** upstairs in The Wheatsheaf and anyone is welcome to attend - £5 including refreshments. Information about our WI can be found on our Noticeboard in Beetham Village (between The Old Post Office & The Wheatsheaf / opposite the Church) or you can email our Secretary at beethamwi@gmail.com



MILL TOUR & DEMONSTRATION

Friday 2nd October, 11.30am - 1pm

HANDS-ON BAKING

Wednesday 23rd September, 11am - 4pm

CRAFTING WITH ERIKA

Monday 14th September, 1 - 4pm

CRAFTERNOON

Tuesday 29th September, 1 - 4pm

POWSOWDIE

Wednesday 16th September, 11am - 2pm

FOODIE FRIDAY!

Friday 4th September, 1 - 3pm

POETRY CAFE

Wednesday 9th September, 11am - 3.30pm

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Beetham CE School

Monday 5th October at 7pm

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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"



art
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September What's On

Friday 4th September - **H is for Hawk** (Film)

Sunday 6th Sept - **Sam Rodwell** (Classical guitar)

Friday 11th Sept - **On Our Way To Lisbon** (Drama)

Tuesday 15th Sept - **David Hockney** (Exhibition on Screen)

Friday 25th Sept - **Emmeline Pankhurst** (Drama)

Saturday 26th Sept - **Jon Kenzie** (Saturday Music)

Friday 2nd October - **Sentimental Value** (Film)

Book tickets online www.theherontheatre.com
email: boxoffice@theherontheatre.com ~ tel: 015395 64283

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Quest

TALKS FOR ALL



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

Thursday 24th Sept ~ **Anne-Marie Michel**
'Trouble Maker—the life and art of Caravaggio'

Thursday 8th Oct ~ **Ron Blackburn**
'The Red Squirrel'

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.

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5-7pm

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www.dallam-school.co.uk

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The Kent Estuary Pilgrim Way

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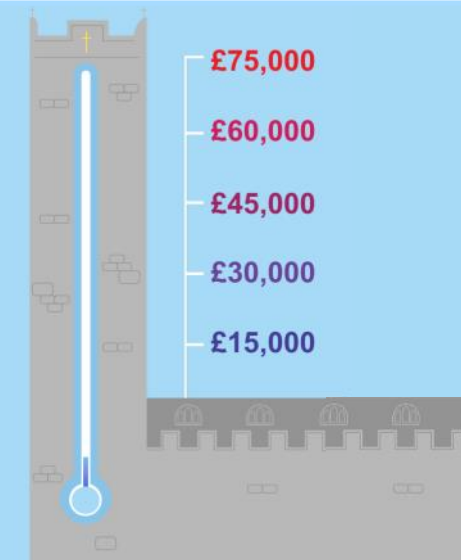
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St Michael & All Angels **FABRIC APPEAL**

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

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Lay Minister/Churchwarden	Vivien Stirrup	015395 64320	vstirrup7@aol.com
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 October edition should be submitted by **Monday 28th September**. Please email articles to **jenny.marks@btinternet.com**. View deadlines online at **www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk**