

75 Years of History & Heritage, 1946 – 2021



As an extraordinary act of gratitude, the Beetham Crib was constructed by the Prisoners of War at Bela Camp, Whassett and presented at Christmas 1946 as a gift to the people of Beetham.

“By doing so we will express our gratefulness for having been able to realize the real spirit of Christian brotherhood, which has been proved to us by the Hon. Rev. A MacLeod Murray and the congregation of Beetham. We are praying with you to THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM”

The original inscription remains to this day on the West wall of the nave of the Church. The passing years had, however, begun to take its toll on the beautiful stable, backdrop and hand-painted figures of the nativity scene. Earlier this year we resolved to ensure that the Beetham Crib continues to witness Christian love for at least another 75 years, or more! Thanks to the generosity of donors we have been able to restore the crib to a condition worthy of its original craftsmanship.

The initial cleaning of the figures was carried out as a labour of love by Hog & Fitch, in the persons of Margaret Reid and Angela Bell: we are enormously indebted to them for their expertise, time, trouble and advice. The condition of the stable and its backboard was more concerning and, after seeking expert advice the specialist furniture restorers Wynn Griffiths & Tarr were engaged to re-stabilise and repair the Crib. Together with Julia Allison, textiles specialist, the Crib can once again now be seen as originally presented to the Church in 1946!

Sunday 28th November marks the beginning of Advent so the Crib will be on display in the Church throughout the Advent period leading to Christmas and then through Epiphany until Candlemas (2nd February) which marks the end of the festival season.

We hope that as many people as possible of the Parish of Beetham and surrounds will have an opportunity during this season to witness this beautiful artefact – a true expression of Christian love.

John Lomax

‘The Miss Whittles’ (as they were known)

The Miss Whittles were three sisters who were a special and much loved part of Beetham village and of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. The family had moved to Beetham in 1947 from Scotforth to take up the cultivation of a smallholding in High Cote Lane. The three girls, Marjorie, Elsie and Edith were the daughters of a very strict father who did not believe in ‘idle hands’. Waking time was spent working on the smallholding and when the sun set and the light dimmed they occupied themselves with a variety of craftwork.

The sisters formed a close family and none of the girls married. The Church was an important part of their lives. They all sang regularly in the Choir; they were to be found carol singing all round the parish every evening of the two weeks before Christmas, accompanied at times by a varying number of other members of the congregation. This they undertook without fail for fifty years. To recognise this devoted service, Reverend Philip Barber was instrumental in their being invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in 1998. Marjorie, Elsie and Edith organised a variety of craft sales for Church funds where their handiwork in sewing, knitting, crochet, basketry, floristry etc were all on show. They were enthusiastic members of the WI and travelled in their camper van, driven by Elsie, to many flower and handicraft shows all over northern England.

They loved flowers and grew a wide variety which they arranged regularly in the Church and set the standard for the exceptional quality of flower arranging which is to be found in the Church at the major festivals, the Flower Weekend and on other special occasions. Which small parish Church owns eleven flower pedestals? This is largely due to the enthusiasm and dedication of the three sisters and we are honoured and proud to follow where they have led.

Sadly Marjorie became ill and died in 2000. Her passing was commemorated with a memorial on the flower pedestal to be found by the Screen. Elsie and Edith continued without her for a short time and then moved from High Cote Lane to Westmorland Court, where Elsie died in 2008 and Edith in 2010. A memorial to the two younger sisters will be dedicated this month and is to be found on the flower pedestal in the Sanctuary, mounted on wood from the box used by the last Verger, Valerie Holden.

Dianne Lomax



THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

DECEMBER 2021

Advent & Christmas Services in Church

Sunday 28th November, 6pm ~ Advent Choral Evensong

A Choral Evensong for the First Sunday of Advent. During this service the restored Beetham Crib (see back page) will be blessed and rededicated in grateful thanks for the 75th anniversary of the original gift and the work of restoration. Both the Beetham Crib and the Outdoor Nativity created last year by Ian Stirrup and Katriona Field will remain on display until Candlemas



Sunday 19th December, 6pm ~ Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Our traditional candlelit service of choir and congregational carols and readings, led by Beetham Church Choir and directed by Geoffrey Field



Christmas Eve, 4pm ~ Crib Service

Due to the continuing coronavirus uncertainty and for the safety of the community our Christmas Eve Christingle Service this year will be replaced by a family candlelit Crib Service, telling the story of the Nativity. To enable social distancing at the event the service will be seated by ticket, and facemasks encouraged to be worn. The service will also be available as a Livestream on YouTube if you prefer to join the service from home. Tickets will be available from Ticketsource from Tuesday 14th December ~ more details and links to Ticketsource and to the Livestream will be available on our website (below) or if you are unable to access Ticketsource please contact Jenny on 015395 62559



Christmas Eve, 11.30pm ~ Midnight Mass

The first celebration of the birth of Jesus, with a service of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Christmastide and the lighting of the final candle on our Advent Wreath

Christmas Day, 11am ~ Christmas Eucharist

All are warmly welcome to join us in our traditional family Christmas Day Eucharist. Please note that there will be no Parish Eucharist service at Beetham on Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day)



At the heart
of Christmas



www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear friends

Over recent years the arrival of the John Lewis & Partners Christmas advert has generated quite a lot of anticipation and interest. In many ways its appearance on our television screens almost synonymous with the arrival of the festive season, signalling as it does a rather intense period of getting ready for the upcoming season of celebrations with all the busyness and energy that comes as we look ahead to the twenty fifth of December.

This year the advert is entitled 'The Unexpected Guest' and tells the story of an alien that has crash landed on earth and is soon befriended by an inquisitive and generous child who is keen to show kindness and offer practical help. As the haunting music plays (a slowed down solo version of the eighties classic 'Together in Electric Dreams') we see in various scenes the two characters enjoying time together: decorating Christmas trees, throwing snowballs at each other, watching television, sharing friendship and learning more about each other. In order to care for his new friend, the boy in the story takes food from his meals in order to share and spends time teaching the alien more about the planet they've found themselves on. Thus, as the advert plays out, a genuine and heartfelt relationship emerges, sure to pull on the heartstrings of even the most reserved and unemotional viewer. Of course, the advert reaches its (perhaps expected) conclusion when the alien, fresh from repairing their spaceship, prepares to leave the forest and continue their journey. The final act being a moment where the child gives his departing friend a gift, no doubt from the John Lewis Christmas catalogue, to persuade us all watching of the place to go for our purchases this year.

It would be easy to dismiss the above as simply good advertising and marketing. A vaguely sentimental story that draws the audience in, follows an easy to guess plot and leaves us in a place where we might be tempted to indulge in some Christmas shopping. Yet, I find the fact that the advert is called 'The Unexpected Guest' quite interesting, not least when it's considered within the greater context of the narrative of what is so often called 'the greatest story ever told'. That story which provides the focus and foundation for our keeping and celebrating of Christmas in the first place, the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

In many ways, given the world and history that Jesus was born into, it would be easy to say that Jesus was in fact the expected guest. The history of Israel and the message of the prophets encouraged God's people to look forward to a day when the long-awaited Messiah would indeed arrive. The difficulties, trials, sorrows and troubles of the present were framed by a hope that one day God would intervene and establish justice, peace, righteousness and goodness for all people. When God first spoke to Abraham, he foretold that in him 'all the families of the earth shall be blessed' (Genesis 12.3). And in the book of the prophet Isaiah, we read of God's promise to his people that one day those that walk-in darkness would see 'a great light', that one day a child would be born, a son given, who would be called 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9.6).

Yet, despite these great hopes that were part and parcel of the world into which Jesus was born into. There is little doubt that God's choice of intervening in human history through being born amongst us as the holy child of Bethlehem is altogether surprising and unexpected. The crib and manger were far removed from a royal palace or site of prominence, Mary and Joseph didn't have the benefit of bijous or salubrious surroundings, itinerant shepherds would hardly be first on anyone's guest list for visitors following childbirth, the threats spoken by King Herod fearful of any attempt to disturb his presumed authority didn't necessarily provide the best setting for a child to be born into.



However, the wonder, mystery, joy and pledge of the Nativity, of the story of Christmas that we tell year after year is that all such as this was God's deliberate and decided choice. God chose, intentionally and carefully, to come amongst us in this particular way. Into the mud, the mess and the pain of life, to reach out to marginalised places and disregarded peoples offering a hope that could not and will not disappoint, to reveal to us the love that God has for the world he has made and demonstrate how his heart is for every one of us. Such was the mission of that unexpected guest all those many years ago in an easily forgotten place in a strange time. Far away from where we might expect God to be, yet fundamentally exactly where God told us he would be – coming to us in simplicity, in humility and fragility, offering his love so that we could love in return.

May the wonder and joy of that first Christmas be yours in the days ahead. And may you find grace, time and opportunity amidst all that you will be doing to make yourself open to receiving that most unexpected of guests, Jesus Christ himself, who is God-with-us, Emmanuel, evermore and evermore.

With every good wish and prayer for God's blessing,

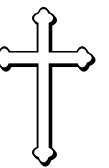
Post-script

This year's 'At the heart of Christmas' campaign includes a series of reflections that will be sent out during the Twelve Days of Christmas (25th December—6th January). You are invited to sign up to receive the daily emails at www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas

Funeral, Friday 26th November

Our prayers and condolences are with the family of Jean Metcalfe

May she rest in peace



Licensing of Nick Gray

On Saturday 20th November at Carlisle Cathedral, Nick Gray was licensed as a Lay Reader in the Diocese. Nick was on placement at St Michael and All Angels and with Andrew between Advent 2019 and Lent 2020, his time with us coming to an abrupt end with the arrival of the pandemic. It was a delight for us to welcome Nick and Katharine and to play a part in encouraging his call in ministry.



Now he is licensed and admitted as a reader in the Diocese, Nick will serve at St Thomas', Kendal and across the Two Valleys Mission Community. We pray for God's blessing on Nick and Katharine as he begins his new Reader ministry and look forward to welcoming him back to Beetham in due course, something which he is already looking forward to. In appreciation for Nick's time on placement here in Beetham and in celebrating of his licensing, we have presented Nick with a study Bible for use in the years to come.



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

Priest-in-Charge	The Revd Andrew Norman	015395 62355	revdabn@gmail.com
Licensed Lay Minister	Vivien Stirrup	015395 64320	vstirrup7@aol.com
Licensed Lay Minister	Chris Roberts	015395 63019	lainyandchris@aol.com
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Churchwarden	Dianne Lomax	015395 62648	diannelomax@btinternet.com
PCC Treasurer	John Lomax	015395 62648	j.d.lomax@btinternet.com
Beetham C of E School	Abi Johnson	015395 62515	a.johnson@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk
The Gateway Editor	Jenny Marks	015395 62559	jenny.marks@btinternet.com
Beetham Coronavirus Community Support		015395 63368	Beetham Aid Helpline

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Some brain teasers for Christmas, with grateful thanks to Phil Marks for stepping in as compiler whilst we wish our regular Quiz Master Clive Holden a speedy recovery

1. Which world leader celebrates his birthday on Christmas day?
2. Which Monarch delivered the first Christmas Day message?
3. What day of the year is Christmas Day 2021?
4. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
5. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol?
6. What did Tom Smith invent for the Christmas table?
7. Traditionally how many ingredients should a Christmas pudding have?
8. What year was the Beetham crib given by the prisoners of war at Bela camp?
9. When do the Twelve Days of Christmas start?
10. Which is the first known Christmas carol?
11. Which numbered reindeer is Rudolph?
12. Which year did Good Friday fall on Boxing Day?
13. Which year did Norway start the tradition of giving the UK the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree?
14. Which Christmas tune was the first played in space, in 1965?
15. How many presents would you have to buy to give out the 12 days of Christmas?
16. What was the biggest Christmas present ever given?
17. What is the biggest selling UK Christmas record of all time?
18. Name the 3 wise men (answer available at the Kendal South Concert on Friday 10th December)?
19. Which monarch started the tradition of eating turkey at Christmas?
20. 'Have a Wonderful Christmas Time' from all at The Gateway magazine! But who wrote it and when?

CHRISTMAS CAROL ANAGRAMS (number of words in brackets)

1. SONIC GAS KNOWLEDGE (5)
2. SWEET GHERKIN (3)
3. FLASHY ASTRONOMER FROM LEG GEL (6)
4. DIVINE DAINTY COSY CAROL (5)
5. HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (5)
6. JEN BEGS LILL (2)
7. HALFTIME CUE OF LOYAL (5)
8. LET THINGS IN (2)
9. HANDWRITTEN BIKE MILE (4)
10. EARTH SHAKING DANGER SHELLS (5)
11. THE CHALK SLED (3)
12. HYMN HINDERING GOOD GIRL (5)
13. MANAGE RAIN WAY (4)
14. DUG MAINTAIN PETROCHEMICAL (6)
15. TO WISHY WASHY RARE CRUMMIES (6)

Getting Ready For CHRISTMAS

Brightening Beetham

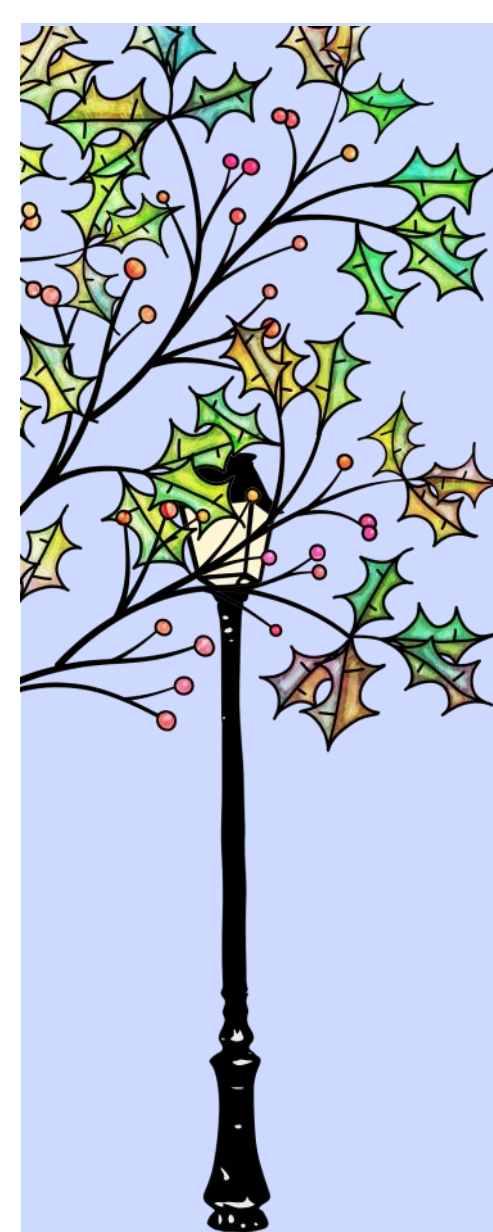
We will once again be 'Brightening Beetham' with Christmas trees in the churchyard and around the village. The switch-on is planned for Sunday 5th December but please check on our website for the latest information. There is still time to sponsor a tree if you wish. For more details please contact Tess on 07725 580095

Carol Singing

This year we are hoping to carol sing around Slackhead and Beetham on 21st and 22nd December. If you would like to join in please meet in the Church Car Park at 6pm. Carol sheets will be provided but please bring a torch so that you can see the words! If that is not enough singing for you then do also support the Choir concerts below ~ both involve members of Beetham Church Choir, and include audience participation...

Advent Calendar

From 1st December why not take another look at our YouTube Advent Calendar. These short videos were made last year by talented members of the community, with one to 'open' each day until Christmas Day. They can be found via our website or by searching for Beetham Church Advent on YouTube



Kendal South Choir
with soloist Christopher Steele
present

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

A selection of festive favourites including :-
Navidad Nuestra
by Ariel Ramirez
Fantasia on Christmas Carols
By Vaughan Williams

Get involved, with sing-along carols!

Directed by Geoffrey Field
with
Orchestral accompaniment

We look forward to welcoming
old friends back, and meeting new!

FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER 2021, 7.30pm
St Thomas's Church, Kendal

Tickets £12, under 18s free.
Available from Choir Members or scan the QR code
(£1/booking fee online)

kendalsouthchoir.org.uk

making music The Granada Foundation

Eversley Choir
Conductor: Ian Jones

Carols,
readings and
seasonal
refreshments

Monday December 20th at 7:30 pm
St. Thomas's Church: Milnthorpe

Tickets £10:00 (free for children/students)
Available from choir members, on the door or online at eversleychoir.org

School Corner

After missing the Nativity last year, the school is looking forward to giving two performances in the church this year. These will be at 2.15pm on Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th December and tickets will be given to each family. This year's Nativity play is '**Shine Star, Shine!**' all about a big star who must show the way to the stable where a special baby has been born

The end of term **School Christmas Carol Service** will be in church at 2pm on Thursday 16th December and everyone is welcome to come along and join in

On these pages we look back at some of the previous School Nativity plays!

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and all the Best for 2022
From all the children, staff and families
at Beetham CE Primary School



'Nativity Rock' was performed in December 2018, and the theme tune was reprised in a special video for the Advent Calendar in 2020



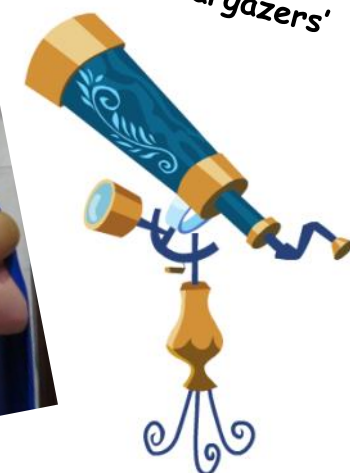
December 2015 saw the film set production of 'Peace on Earth'



In December 2019 there was no room at the inn in 'Bethlehem B&B'



The Nativity in December 2016 was all about 'Stargazers'



A 'Pie and Peas supper' was enjoyed by the many Beetham WI's members who attended the AGM this year, which was held at Holme Village Hall. A presentation was made of the Mrs Elmslie trophy to the team who created the winning co-operative entry entitled 'Staycation' at the Westmorland County Show in September. Members were also able to look through the photographic exhibits from our Centenary year together with the latest scrapbooks. Knitted poppies donated by Louise were sold to members in aid of The British Legion. Heartfelt messages of thanks were given to the committee who have worked so hard throughout another difficult year. A relaxed and sociable evening was had by all.



Though members had only been able to meet up in person in recent months, the committee and members have continued to keep in touch and be supportive of each other throughout the restrictions. The recent Scrapbooks are an interesting record of a most unusual period in our lives.

At the end of November we are having a Craft evening making Christmas Wreaths using greenery from members gardens. In December, some members will be attending the annual Federation's WI Christmas Carol Service in Kendal and we are all looking forward to our Christmas Party at the Heron Corn Mill.

We will again be displaying our Christmas Lights in the village as part of 'Brightening Beetham' and Beetham WI Committee wish all members and readers of The Gateway

A very Happy Festive Season



Remembrance Sunday

The Act of Remembrance and two minute silence was held at Beetham War Memorial on Sunday 14th November, led by the Revd Andrew Norman. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the British Legion, the Parish and South Lakeland District Council

The Last Post and Reveille were played by Phil Marks, who also accompanied the choir and congregation in the singing of the hymn 'O God our help in ages past' at the memorial

The service then continued in church with the Remembrance Eucharist

On Armistice Day, Beetham CE School held their own Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. This ended (unplanned) spectacularly with the low flying past of a Chinook helicopter just as the Reveille ended, and making it a very special occasion to remember



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"HAPPY, HAPPY CHRISTMAS, THAT CAN WIN US BACK TO THE DELUSIONS OF OUR CHILDISH DAYS ; THAT RECALL TO THE OLD MAN THE PLEASURES OF HIS YOUTH ; THAT CAN TRANSPORT THE SAILOR AND THE TRAVELLER, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY BACK TO HIS OWN FIRESIDE AND HIS QUIET HOME !"

CHARLES DICKENS, THE PICKWICK PAPERS.

I love Charles Dickens. Each year A Christmas Carol is read, timed to finish naturally on Christmas Eve. We have all had unusual Christmasses these last two years. We are all hoping this year will be, 'normal'.... The one constant thing about Christmas is music. Music prompts so much nostalgia on any occasion, never more so than at Christmas. We all have favourites, an array of tunes to fit the mood often spanning decades and from before we were born. As soon as those first tentative festive notes hit our ears, we are both transported and panicked, thinking of all we need to do. But it comes, it goes, whatever is happening in the world, every year. So, it is always with excitement that Beetham Community Band begin their Christmas music. It will still be a quiet year performing wise, but it is joyous to be playing Mariah Carey again and all the old favourites. What is best of all is that we are together, physically and mostly musically too!

"WHAT IF CHRISTMAS, HE THOUGHT, DOESN'T COME FROM A STORE. WHAT IF CHRISTMAS, PERHAPS, MEANS A LITTLE BIT MORE"

DR SEUSS, HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

Well, I could not leave Dr Seuss out, he has kept me in quotes all year. But Christmas is a great deal more and perhaps this year you might like to give yourself the gift of music. The gift that keeps on giving. Anyone is welcome, there are no commitments to be made, just fun to be had. Feel free to pop along to see us when we practice on Saturday mornings in St Michael and All Angels Church, Beetham, from 10.30 am. Or contact me, Tess, on 07725580095 if you wish to know more.

So from every member of Beetham Community Band, we wish you ALL, the best of Christmasses, full of love, laughter and music and we hope Father Christmas leaves you that trombone** you have always wanted, in your stocking.

(** Other types of instruments are available, I just liked the mental image)

"AND SO, I'M OFFERING THIS SIMPLE PHRASE TO KIDS FROM ONE TO NINETY TWO. ALTHOUGH ITS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES, MANY WAYS, MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU"

TINY TIM, A CHRISTMAS CAROL

And saving the best 'till last xx

"GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE"

Quest has restarted

in

The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Meetings are held at 10am on
2nd and 4th Thursday of the Month

Talk - Coffee - Questions

9 December

"Ethos" ~ Martin Cooper

Visitors Welcome

Contact: Patricia McPoland
015395 62765 or mcpoland@btinternet.com

Beetham Village Facebook

A dedicated facebook group for
Beetham village

Search for
"Beetham Village, Cumbria"
or go to:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336128587626350/?ref=share>

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Children free. Please reserve & pay on door.



For more details, contact Sue Nicholls
At 07757 919879 or
sueplaysflute@gmail.com

Beetham Parish Council

The next meeting will be on

Monday 6th December at 7pm
in Storth Village Church

Members of the public are welcome to attend
Minutes of previous meetings can be found
on the website at www.beethampc.co.uk

Important message for advertisers

Now that Gateway is back to full circulation, both online and printed copies into all parish letterboxes, we do aim to contact each advertiser individually to ascertain your ongoing requirements. You may be aware that some ads were slightly altered in dimensions as it became necessary during lockdown to realign some pages. Do please let us know if there are any details you would like us to change

And to other local business would you like to advertise? Annual costs can be as low as just £20!

Contact John Lomax or Jenny Marks

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<p>HIGHGATE VETERINARY CLINIC 01539 721344 We are still open for essential and emergency care, and providing medications. To reduce face-to-face contact we are also running video or phone consultations www.highgatevets.com 173 Highgate, & Unit 1 Beezon Rd Trdg Estate, Kendal</p>	<p> LAKELAND HEARING We wish all of our clients to stay well & healthy. We are on hand to help you hear throughout the Covid-19 crisis. ✓ Face to face appointments ✓ Phone calls ✓ Repairs to your hearing aids ✓ Battery sales ✓ Accessory sales ✓ Remote adjustments of your hearing aids Do get in touch and let us know how we can help 01524 824594 info@lakelandhearing.co.uk Subject to a compatible hearing aid</p>	<p>CREATIVE SEAFOODS Lovely fresh and smoked fish & shellfish delivered to your door weekly. Ethically sound & nicely packaged. Ready for eating now or freezing. for details, contact NATHAN LUSTED 0750196 7000 info@creativeseafoods.co.uk</p>	
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Tea Room and Shop opening times are subject to change.
Shop deliveries can be arranged for vulnerable people, and we are open Thurs-Sun from 10am - 3pm
For all other times please call Huw & Lorraine on 015395 62389

January deadline for The Gateway
The deadline for contributions for the January edition is noon on **Wednesday 29th December**
Please send articles to the editor, Jenny Marks
Email: jenny.marks@btinternet.com
View this and past editions of The Gateway online at beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk


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