

Beetham Advent Calendar 2020

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk



The First Sunday of Advent. A joint service from Beetham and Arnside to celebrate the start of Advent



Day 1: The Revd Andrew Norman and Beetham Church Virtual Choir give a **Welcome** to the Calendar



Day 2: Tess Rowlands sings Bob Chilcott's **The Advent Candle**



Day 3: Katriona & Geoff Field play **Tomorrow shall be my dancing day** on clarinet and piano



Day 4: Chris Roberts reads John Betjeman's poem **Christmas**



Day 5: Jenny Marks plays **The Sans Day Carol** on harp and organ



Day 6: Sheila MacInnes reads her own poem **Beetham Bells**



Day 7: Dianne Lomax reads **The Carol of the Poor Children** by Richard Middleton



Day 8: The Beetham Handbell Ringers play **Good King Wenceslas** on the Ringing Room computer app



Day 9: Beetham Church Virtual Choir sing the traditional carol **Gaudete**



Day 10: Beetham WI read the poem **Tis the month before Christmas**



Day 11: Beetham CE School sing **Nativity Rock** by Sheila Wilson



Day 12: Katriona & Geoff Field play **O Holy Night** on clarinet and piano



Day 13: The Revd Andrew Norman blesses the new outdoor **Crib and the Christmas Trees**



Day 14: Viv Stirrup plays the **Carol of the Bells** on piano



Day 15: Nick Gray reads the poem **Annunciation** by Scott Cairns



Day 16: Beetham Church Virtual Choir sing the Irish traditional **Wexford Carol**



Day 17: Beetham (Virtual) Recorder Group play **We Three Kings**



Day 18: Beetham CE School sing **Little Donkey**



Day 19: The Revd Canon Dr David Peacock plays **Petites Litanies de Jesus** by Gabriel Grovlez on piano



Day 20: **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** directed by Geoff Field, joint with St James Arnside



Day 21: The Beetham (Virtual) Band plays **See amid the winter's snow**



Day 22: Sue Smalley reads **The Three Kings** from 'The Virgin Mary's Got Nits' by Gervase Phinn



Day 23: Geoff Field plays Leroy Anderson's **Sleigh Ride** on organ



Day 24: The Revd Andrew Norman and Beetham CE School lead our online **Christingle** service



Day 25: Beetham Church invites you to **Sing Carols for Christmas**



THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM
JANUARY 2021

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, with the hope that 2021 will be a happier year than 2020

Despite the uncertainty and sadness of 2020, we were able to celebrate Advent and Christmas in Beetham in a number of ways, beginning with our online Advent Service on YouTube on Sunday 28th November. This led into our Advent Calendar, starting with a welcome video from the Revd Andrew Norman on 1st December, and followed with a daily video to 'open' until Christmas Day. Recorded by individuals and groups from the church and community, a big thank you goes to all who took part with such creativity and enthusiasm ~ and hidden talents! Thank you also to those who provided photographs, prayers and voice-overs for the videos. The calendar has received over 4,000 views so far and to see the full list of all the video content please go to the back page, with a reminder that they are all still available to watch via our website or by searching for Beetham Church on YouTube



One of the highlights of the year at St Michael and All Angels has always been our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Sadly, we were unable to hold this in church this year, but instead recorded a special video for release behind 'Door 20' of the Advent Calendar. Our thanks go to Music Director Geoff Field and the members of the Beetham Church Virtual Choir for several weeks of recording the carols in their own homes. We were delighted to be joined by members of St James Arnside choir for one of the carols and hope that this will be the start of a closer link between the two choirs. We also thank the Lesson readers from both Beetham and Arnside for recording their readings at home in such strange circumstances, to complete such a moving service online

Another highlight of our Christmas celebrations, the popular Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, also moved online, led by the Revd Andrew Norman. The children from Beetham CE School made their own Christingles and recorded 'Away in a Manger' and 'Come and join the celebration' to include in the video, with the telling of the Christmas Story by the headteacher Wendy Nicholas, and the Christingle Story by school governor Brian Smalley



Within the Christmas restrictions we were thankful that we were able to attend public worship for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and our Christmas Day Eucharist in church for a joyful celebration of the Christmas message. Thanks go to the churchwardens for working so tirelessly to ensure the safety of all the worshippers, and to the flower arrangers and the candle-lighters for making the church look so beautiful for these occasions

Throughout December, the 'Brightening Beetham' tree lights and the new outdoor Nativity Crib have been lit in the churchyard and around the village, bringing peace, hope and joy to all who have seen them, with grateful thanks to all who organised and sponsored the project to complete a different Christmas for us all to remember

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman



Dear friends

In ending his Christmas radio broadcast in 1939, King George VI speaking to a country faced with the uncertainty of war read from a poem that had been given to him by his thirteen year old daughter Princess Elizabeth. The words, taken from the poem 'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins, will I imagine, be familiar to you, words that in succeeding years have continued to bring strength and encouragement to many:

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east.'

In a time of seeming unparalleled darkness and distress they were words addressed to all those who listening in their homes feared the worst for the year ahead. Spoken with a sense of beleaguerrment to a people for whom hope seemed in short supply, those who as storm clouds gathered over Europe, had no idea what the coming year would bring. Though our experiences in the past year have been vastly different we can all, I am sure, sympathise with such feelings as we launch into a new year and look ahead to what 2021 will hold.

The word 'unprecedented' has been used unprecedentedly to describe the events of 2020; the hardship, adversity, difficulties and challenges we have all faced. The public health emergency resulting from the shadow of the pandemic has affected our lives, our livelihoods, our families and relationships in ways that we would never have comprehended. And although we know that the promise of a mass immunisation programme and a route out of our current circumstances is on the horizon, amid continued restriction, limitation and separation this can seem a far-off prospect. In such times of darkness, we look for light, searching for guidance and yearning for a sense of purpose that will help us make sense of the times we are in and the times that lie ahead.

Here, those words quoted in 1939 help us, as the man who stands at the ending of the year asks for such a light, requesting help to face the future not with certainty, but with hope. As the poem goes on to say such confidence and trust can only be found not by summoning up our own resources or abilities, it isn't something that can be done in our own strength, but can only be found by having faith and trust enough to commend ourselves into the care and keeping of God. Such an act of belief might be tentative and faltering, it might be sometimes doubting and disbelieving, but in seeking God and trusting in the knowledge of his loving presence we find something 'better than light and safer than a known way'.

During the Christmas season, which the Church celebrates until Candlemas at the start of February, we are able to rejoice that the proof and evidence of God's involvement in our lives and the world is found when we discover for ourselves Christ born for us and amongst us. Trusting that because of his birth in Bethlehem all those years ago, God's promises will never fail.

It is with this reassurance that we embark upon a new year, praying that it will be a year of grace and goodness, in which seeking to know God more we'll know ourselves already known by him. As we do this we are reminded that as we look to the future, we walk by faith and not by sight; remembering that whatever the coming days, weeks, months and year will bring, in times of joy and sorrow, the Lord is indeed with us. Giving thanks that the God made known to us in Jesus Christ invites us to open our lives to the hopefulness and consolation that come from knowing him close by in all the changing scenes of life.

It is then with the promises of faith that we set out on this year of grace 2021; calling to mind that even though our vision may be imperfect and the way ahead unknown, all things are clear to God, whose constant and unchanging love for us is the same today, tomorrow and always.

With every good wish and prayer for the Lord's blessing as we begin this new year,

post-script:

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if the church community can be of any help or comfort to you in the days ahead. I am grateful for the many ways in which people are caring for each other, not less through keeping in touch with friends and neighbours, as well as in other practical and prayerful ways. I hope and pray that this will continue in the coming days and weeks. If you would like a conversation or any pastoral support, please do be in touch with us. We are each given the opportunity by God to be a means by which his love and care for us is made known to others, through our prayers, our efforts to keep in contact with each other, and the support we offer. May the Lord bless us all as we seek to live in faith together.

From 'The Gateway' in 1990!

"Will Beetham Church ever be open again, daily, to the public? Yes, we hope so. But measures will have to be taken to prevent a recurrence of the thefts we have suffered."

Our church did re-open soon after this and remained open daily for 30 years until March 2020 when the covid-19 pandemic necessitated our first lockdown

We are thankful that we were able to open for public worship every week during December. Although we have now moved into Tier 4, we will continue to hold our Parish Eucharist in church each Sunday morning at 11am. Please remember to bring your face masks and remain socially distanced at all times

St Michael & All Angels Funeral



Thursday 17th December

Our prayers and condolences
are with the family of

William (Bill) Ernest Helm

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
Lay Chair/Churchwarden	Brian Smalley	015395 64778	b.e.smalley@btinternet.com
Churchwarden	Dianne Lomax	015395 62648	diannelomax@btinternet.com
Churchwarden	Ian Stirrup	015395 64320	ianstirrup02@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	John Lomax	015395 62648	j.d.lomax@btinternet.com
Beetham C of E School	Wendy Nicholas	015395 62515	head@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk
The Gateway Editor	Jenny Marks	015395 62559	beethamnews@aol.com
Gateway advertising	John Lomax	015395 62648	j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

For Baptisms, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals, Home Visits & Holy Communion at Home, Prayer & Anointing for Healing, Sacrament of Reconciliation or if you have any questions about church life or the Christian faith, please do contact the Vicar

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 6TH JANUARY

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Epiphany is defined as:-

1. The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)
 - 1.1 The festival commemorating the Epiphany on 6 January
 2. A moment of sudden and great revelation or realization

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. It marks the visit of the three wise men - the Magi - to pay homage to the infant Jesus, and their offering of gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In Beetham church, the carved figures of the three wise men are moved from the far side of the church to the nativity scene, made by the prisoners of war from Bela Camp, on the Feast of the Epiphany. This year the three Kings made by Katriona Field will also be added to the new outdoor Crib for the Epiphany service on 3rd January. The season of Epiphany continues with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus by John through to the Presentation of Christ in the Temple at Candlemas on 2nd February

The eve of Epiphany is also known as Twelfth Night. Beginning on St Stephens Day (Boxing Day), the Twelve Days of Christmas end on 6 January. However, until the Middle Ages the end of a day was traditionally when the sun went down, so Epiphany actually starts on the evening of 5th January. It is for this reason that the taking down of Christmas decorations (accompanied by the serving of a mulled spicy punch known as wassail) is usually done on 5th January



ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS CAROL QUIZ (DECEMBER GATEWAY)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. 'When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even' | Good King Wenceslas |
| 2. 'God appears on earth to reign.' | Lo He comes with Clouds descending |
| 3. '...From depths of hell thy people save' | O Come, O come Emmanuel |
| 4. 'God is now with man residing' | Angels from the Realms of Glory |
| 5. 'Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.' | Away in a Manger |
| 6. 'To Bethl'em straight the enlightened shepherds ran' | Christians, awake |
| 7. 'Now to the Lord sing praises, all people in this place' | God rest ye Merry Gentlemen |
| 8. 'Veiled in flesh the Godhead see' | Hark the Herald Angels sing |
| 9. 'What can I give him, poor as I am?' | In the Bleak Midwinter |
| 10. 'O hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing' | It came upon a Midnight clear |
| 11. 'He rules the world with truth and grace' | Joy to the World |
| 12. 'Herod the king in his raging, charged he hath this day' | Coventry Carol |
| 13. 'Lo star led chieftain, Magi Christ adoring' | O come, all ye Faithful |
| 14. 'We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.' | O little Town of Bethlehem |
| 15. 'Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace' | Silent Night |
| 16. 'And our eyes at last shall see him' | Once in Royal David's City |
| 17. 'Sing ye heights of heaven his praises' | Of the Father's Heart begotten |
| 18. 'Lo within the manger lies he who built the starry skies' | See amid the Winter's Snow |
| 19. 'A Saviour who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign' | While Shepherds watched |
| 20. 'Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way,' | As with Gladness Men of old |

Well done if you managed to identify them all!

Sue Smalley

'Brain of Beetham'

With the Tier 4 Covid-19 restrictions set to continue we will be unable to hold our annual church Shrove Tuesday Supper and Quiz Night in February. Undaunted, our intrepid Quiz Master, Clive Holden, is determined to keep our brains active whilst we are staying at home.

Clive has compiled a number of rounds of ten questions to test our knowledge in different categories, to be published each month in The Gateway. Some answers you may know straight away, others may need a little bit of research.

To start the New Year, your first round is ten questions concerning...

Music and song

1. Who wrote symphonies that are 'Expansive', 'Inextinguishable' and 'Simple' ?
2. Whose clock stood ninety years on the floor ?
3. Which mountains sweep down to the sea ?
4. Who wanted the moonlight and a girl, carried a cane and wore a straw hat ?
5. Who sounded foreign but wrote about England ?
6. How is 'The Witch's Curse' better known ?
7. 'Vile infidel know you have trod on.....' whose toe ?
8. What do Black Jacks, The Quarrymen, Johnny and the Moon Dogs and Roy Storm and the Hurricanes have in common ?
9. Who was 'The King of Swing' ?
10. Which conductor was nicknamed 'Flash Harry' ?

Your time starts now. No prizes, except your own sense of achievement!



Beetham School Carol Service

After months without hearing any singing in St Michael & All Angels, it was a real pleasure to be able to welcome the children from our school to church for their end of term Carol Service. To hear their enthusiastic singing of carols ranging from the traditional O Little Town of Bethlehem and Away in Manager to the more modern Little Donkey and A Star in the Sky was a delight. In fact, we were doubly blessed because we actually had two Carol Services, with the pupils staying in their secure Bubbles and coming at different times to maintain the integrity of the social distancing measures and hygiene practices that Wendy and the staff have worked so hard to establish throughout the term.

At both of the services, led by the Rev'd Andrew, the pupils demonstrated how much they had learned and remembered about the meaning of Advent, the symbolism of the Advent wreath and the details of the Nativity story itself. From understanding about the significance of the white candle representing Jesus as the Light of the World, to knowing that the purple and pink candles also represent Love, Joy, Hope and Peace, it was evident that although this Christmas end-of-term has been different from previous years (no Nativity Play, sadly) the true message coming from the birth of the baby in Bethlehem is well understood and has made no less of an impression on the children.

Readings, Action Poems, and Carols with musical accompaniment, performed by all the pupils, from the very youngest in Nursery and Reception to the oldest in Year 6, combined to create a truly magical atmosphere. And the children (and teachers and those School Governors able to be present) also learned something new when the Rev'd Andrew taught them how to use British Sign Language to explain the meaning of Emanuel and sign: 'Jesus (is) God with Me.

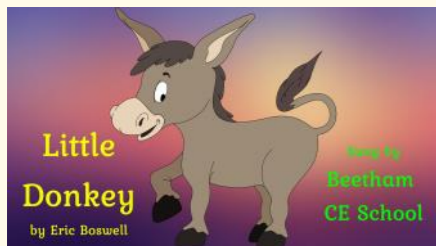
In a strange year, the Beetham School Carol Services have reminded us of both what we have missed and what we can hopefully look forward to before Christmas comes round again.

Brian Smalley

Beetham CE School on YouTube



As well as the Carol Services we were delighted that the Beetham School children took part in the online Advent Calendar on two of the individual Days plus singing for the online Christingle Service. Their enthusiasm was infectious and attracted some of the highest viewing figures within hours of the videos going live. Nativity Rock can be viewed behind the Door for Day 11, and Little Donkey behind the Door for Day 18, or go to YouTube and search for Beetham Church



January 2021 New Year Codeword Puzzle

In this codeword puzzle find 20 words connected with Christianity

21	3	4	7		23	14	16	26	7	6	26	10	4	26
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Sue Smalley

BEETHAM SPORTS ASSOCIATION

It has been a quiet year for Beetham Sports with the cancellation of this year's Sports due to Covid-19. In its 100 years of history, the Sports have been cancelled on only one other occasion, this being due to the Foot & Mouth Outbreak in 2001.



There are a few of the older members of the Committee considering retirement after many years of sterling service. These include David Shaw, Chris & Karen Merckel and myself. My family has been involved with Beetham Sports ever since John & Florence Miller, father and mother of Margaret Shaw, bought the Wheatsheaf in 1961. All good things must come to an end, but those retiring leave the Sports in good shape, with a healthy bank balance and knowing that they have helped to raise a great deal of money for good causes. In fact, since I became Secretary in 2004, Committee Members have awarded £25,000 in grants and donations to local organisations and charities. It is probably due to this, plus watching all the children having so much fun competing in their races, that has kept us going over all these years.

If you wish to offer your services either to serve on the Committee or help out during the week of the Sports in 2021, please drop a line to Simon Greenwood at: simongrm10@aol.com The 2021 Sports will be held on Saturday 31st July.

Dennis Wright
Secretary

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE No 41 JULY - DECEMBER 2020

The parish council continues to operate remotely via monthly Zoom meetings, which have now become the norm. Members have adapted well to the new arrangements and parish business is being effectively dealt with. Members of the public may join these meetings if they wish (contact the Clerk for details).

The new outdoor seat at Sandside promenade is now installed and has been well received. However, problems with recreational anglers remain, with more complaints about their occasional unwillingness to move fishing tackle when passing walkers wish to use the footway and are sometimes forced into the busy road. Signs on the footway, pointing out the right of unimpeded access for pedestrians, have been suggested and agreed in principle. These should appear in 2021.


Resurfacing work on Park Road (Milnthorpe), Guard Hill Lane, Keasdale Road and Storth Road has now been completed. Parish council noticeboards are looking good after refurbishment. The volunteer-run community shop in Storth Square is once more back in business after extensive improvement work to the interior and continues to provide a brilliant facility for the village. More volunteers are always needed – please contact anyone at the shop if you think you could help.

Excessive traffic speeds on the A6 through Beetham and along the B5282 have long been a serious hazard. After a recent petition to CCC by Beetham residents and a presentation by the head teacher of Beetham School, there seems to be hope of a future reduction in the official speed limit from 50mph to 40mph along the critical section of the A6. The parish council supports this move and is involved in keeping the problem in the mind of the responsible authorities by the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at strategic points on both the A6 and the B5282, to deter speeding motorists and record traffic speeds. Hopefully, and with the financial support of local businesses, a parish council-owned SID could soon be acquired to back up the borrowed SID currently in use.

Speeding along the B5282 at Carr Bank is of particular concern as regards the safety of school pupils waiting at the bus shelter for transport into Milnthorpe. This was the scene of a serious accident a few years ago and a similar accident could easily recur. Despite bringing this to the attention of the school, the bus company and the responsible local authority no reasonable practical solution has yet been found.

An issue which concerns us all is the proposal to create a single unitary authority for Cumbria, to replace the various existing smaller authorities such as South Lakeland District Council (SLDC). An alternative proposal, to create a new local authority comprising SLDC, Barrow Town Council and Lancaster City Council, is to be considered by the Secretary of State. Either alternative would include increased devolution of decision making from central to local government, which is known to be a current central government policy.

For contact details for Beetham Parish Council please visit the website at www.beethampc.co.uk



*' YOU'LL NEVER GET BORED WHEN YOU TRY SOMETHING NEW.
THERE'S REALLY NO LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN DO '*
DR SEUSS

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE !!! I make no apologies for ending the year with another quote from the inimitable Dr Seuss. Always a good source of wise words. We don't need more reminders of 2020. I think we all know. So being a great believer in always looking and going forward, that is what we shall do.

' AND SUDDENLY YOU KNOW : IT'S TIME TO START SOMETHING NEW AND TRUST THE MAGIC OF NEW BEGINNINGS '
MEISTER ECKHART

Some people have the knack of being succinct. I have yet to master that, so I am happy to learn from others. Which is what happens in Beetham Community Band and what is more, it works and critically it is FUN! LIFE SHOULD BE FUN! On a personal note, I have had to relearn that. So, should you be wondering where I come from I hope that gives some indication.

Music is fun, it is magic and stardust and soothes the spirit. At any level, which is so important to know. There is and always will be the warmest of welcomes for anyone who wishes to join us. I remind you once again, there is no pressure. We do not insist on regular rigid attendance, but such camaraderie is addictive. For any doubters I, with a wonderful chap, tried this once before. Almost 30 years on they are still having fun!!

As always if you wish to know more please contact me, Tess, on 015395 63254. I can let you know all you need to know including instrument loan schemes to find the one you feel is for you. If that is a comb and paper or triangle ...it's music. Or you can simply blow the cobwebs off an old musical friend tucked away in the loft or cupboard.

' YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM '
C.S LEWIS

More wise words to leave with you with. For good measure may every member of Beetham Community Band wish you and yours, once again, A VERY VERY HAPPY, MUSICAL AND MAGICAL 2021



The Garden Food Hall
AT BEETHAM NURSERIES

The Garden Cafe will be closed until further notice, however the Garden Centre will remain open as normal. The Food Hall will remain open for your food essentials, fresh fruit & vegetables, tasty treats and tipples over the coming weeks, and we will add more products to our online shop to allow you to shop from home, too. Click & Collect remains in place on the online shop free of charge.

shop.beethamnurseries.co.uk

Beetham Parish Council
The next meeting will be on
Monday 4th January at 7pm
via Zoom (please contact Parish Clerk for details)
Members of the public are welcome to attend
Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the website at www.beethampc.co.uk

Milnthorpe Area Food Bank

Christians Together in Milnthorpe and Heversham have been running a food bank since October 2013

If you would like to donate food to the food bank there are permanent collection points at a number of places including

**St Thomas' Milnthorpe,
St Peter's Heversham,
Storth Village Church
Arnside Methodist Church**

Please give generously
Thank you



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Sadly, many of our advertisers had to close down their businesses until further notice and some services listed below may still not all be available. However, the adverts are here to remind you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time and to remember to support them once trading returns. Many businesses have now re-opened, and do please support them where you can.

To book advertising space call John on 015395 62648 or email j.d.lomax@btinternet.com



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February deadline for The Gateway
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