

Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham



Agenda and Reports
for Annual Parochial Meetings 2022

The Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

To be held on Sunday 08 May 2022
in the Parish Church at 12.15 pm

Church Committees at May 2022

Priest in Charge		The Revd. Andrew B Norman
Church Wardens		Dianne Lomax Brian Smalley
Parochial Church Council	Chair:	The Revd. Andrew B Norman
	Vice Chair:	Brian Smalley (Church Warden)
	Secretary:	Elizabeth Rocke
	Treasurer:	John Lomax
PCC Members	Ex-officio Churchwarden	Brian Smalley
	Ex-officio Churchwarden	Dianne Lomax
		Jenny Andrews
		Darrell Lancaster
		Sheila MacInnes
		Jenny Marks
		Chris Roberts
		Tess Rowlands
	Ex-officio Deanery Synod Rep:	Dorothy MacLeod
	Ex-officio Deanery Synod Rep:	Vivien Stirrup
Finance Committee		Vivien Stirrup Tess Rowlands John Lomax
Friends of Beetham Church	Chair:	John Lomax
	Administrator:	Brian Smalley Anne Clarke Dianne Lomax Jenny Marks Sue Smalley Ian Stirrup Vivien Stirrup Dennis Wright
Fabric Committee	Chair:	Jenny Marks
	Secretary:	Harry Parrott Darrell Lancaster John Lomax Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup Dennis Wright
Foundation Governors for Beetham School		John Lomax (Chair of Governors) Chris Christou Katherine Parrott-Edwards Vivien Stirrup Dennis Wright
Ex-Officio Local Authority Nominated Governor		The Revd Andrew B Norman Brian Smalley (Vice-chair)

Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Agendas for Annual Parochial Meetings 2022

**The Annual Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 08 May 2022 at 12.15 pm

Welcome and introduction

Opening Prayers

Apologies for absence

Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll or those resident in Beetham Parish and on the Civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 09 May 2021
2. Election of Churchwardens

Agenda: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. Verbal reports will not be given at the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 09 May 2021
 - a) Approval
 - b) Matters arising
2. Electoral Roll
3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2021/2022
4. Finance Report for year ending 31st December 2021
 - 4.1 Gift Aid report
5. Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report
6. Kendal Deanery Synod Report
7. Beetham CE Primary School Report
8. Safeguarding
9. Reports from Church Groups
 - a) Friends of Beetham Church
 - b) Social Events
 - c) Bell Ringers
 - d) Website, Gateway and Community report
 - e) Bookstall
 - f) Church Flowers
 - g) Choir and Music
10. Churchwardens' Report
11. Priest's Report
12. Elections and Appointments
 - a) Parochial Church Council Members
 - b) Independent Examiner
13. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Closing Prayers

Annual Vestry Meeting 2022

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 09 May 2021 (*minutes of the meeting below in italics*)

The Parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the church on Sunday 09 May 2021 at 12.05pm

Present: The Revd. Andrew Norman (AN) Chair, Elizabeth Rocke (ER) PCC Secretary, Dianne Lomax (DL) Churchwarden, Brian Smalley (BS) Churchwarden, Ian Stirrup (IS) Churchwarden, , with 21 members of the congregation present.

Apologies had been received from: Valerie Cookson, Jim and Rosalie Woods, Tess Rowlands.

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Annual Vestry Meeting 09 May 2021

*1. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 18 October 2020 were approved
Prop .ER , sec. BS , agreed unanimously.*

2. Election of Churchwardens: AN offered his sincere thanks to Brian, Dianne and Ian for their service over the last year and for their dedication and diligence in their roles of stewarding, leading and guiding. He had received profound encouragement and support from them.

Three nominations were received for the three posts of Churchwarden as follows:

*Dianne Lomax – Prop. Sue Smalley, sec. IS
Brian Smalley – Prop. ER, sec. Dennis Wright
Ian Stirrup – Prop. BS , sec. John Lomax*

There being no other nominations these three were elected unanimously. The admission of Churchwardens will take place at St James Church, Burton in Kendal on 17 June 2021.

AN advised the meeting that IS would be standing down at next year's APCM and as such, members of the congregation may wish to give some thought on whether they would undertake the role of Churchwarden.

End of Annual Vestry Meeting 2021 at 12.10pm

Agenda Item 2: Election of Church wardens

End of Annual Vestry Meeting 2022

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote

Agenda Item 1a: Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 09 May 2021 ***(minutes of the APCM shown below in italics)***

(N.B. The following minutes should be read in conjunction with the 2020/2021 printed reports)

The Parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Beetham
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 19 May 2021

1. a. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 18 October 2020 were approved

Prop. John Lomax , sec. Dennis Wright , agreed unanimously

b. There were no matters arising from the minutes:

All those attending had received either a paper copy of the Annual Report or had access to view it online. AN thanked the contributors for their reports which provide an account of the varied and important activities of the parish and the hard work that goes on and has gone on despite the unprecedented times of living during a pandemic. AN proposed that they should be accepted without further comment unless questions arose. The reports were accepted unanimously and there were no questions arising.

2. Electoral roll: *There was no change to the elected roll figure of 82.*

3. Priest's report: (Item 11 on the agenda) *AN offered his thanks to everyone who had undertaken any act of service, deed or contribution whatsoever to the life of the church. AN gave thanks to the many people who contribute generously of their talents and time allowing the church to flourish for God's glory and the furthering of the kingdom. It is greatly appreciated and recognised.*

4. Elections and Appointments (agenda item 12):

a) Parochial Church Council Members:

One existing PCC member was due for election at this meeting: David MacInnes, who did not wish to stand for re-election. AN indicated that he was very grateful to David and thanked him for his service on the PCC over the past years.

There were two nominations for the four lay places:

Jenny Andrews – Prop. Sue Smalley, Sec. Brian Smalley
Darrell Lancaster – Prop. Deborah Lancaster, Sec. Ian Stirrup

Jenny and Darrell were unanimously elected. Two lay places remain vacant.

b) Independent Examiner:

David Carey had indicated his willingness to continue in the role of Independent Examiner of the church accounts in 2021 so it was proposed by John Lomax and seconded by Brian Smalley that he should be appointed. Agreed unanimously.

5. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC (agenda item 13): No matters were raised

There being no further comments the meeting was closed with the Grace at 12.15

The PCC then met to make certain appointments and consider agenda items referred to it by the Standing Committee.

End of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 19 May 2021

Agenda Item 1b: Matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 19 May 2021.

Agenda Item 2: Electoral Roll 2022

Electoral Roll: 76

Lesson Readers: Morning Service – 23

Intercessors: 7

All numbers correct at April 2022. There are no plans to resume the Offertory rota at present, and there was no morning Sidesperson rota or Evensong rotas during 2021/22. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to read or be a sidesperson when Evensong resumes from 1st May 2022, and to be a morning sidesperson when required later in the year. Thanks go to all who volunteer to be on one or more of the rotas, and who make alternative arrangements for cover when they are unavailable. Additional volunteers are always welcome throughout the year.

Jenny Marks, Electoral Roll Officer

Agenda Item 3: Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC 2021/22

Meetings of the PCC have taken place on a regular pattern of every other month. Standing Committee meetings have taken place in the intervening month. The main topics of discussion have been review of the coronavirus restrictions and their gradual easing. The PCC has also reviewed the Mission Action Plan on an away day event on 19 March 2022. A new Mission Action Plan will be drafted and presented to the PCC in due course for adoption. If any person wants further information as to the proceedings of the PCC they can contact me and I will provide a copy of the minutes to them.

Elizabeth Rocke, PCC Secretary

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 December 2021

I wrote in 2019, just three years ago, "As I write this report, Beetham Church is "on a high"! We have just been informed that the Priest vacancy is to be filled – we look forward eagerly to his installation – and the finances of the Church are in rude health. This is a reflection of the hard work and generous giving of the whole Church community – thank you all!"

It seems scarcely possible that things could change so markedly in a relatively short space of time. During that time we did recognise the need to ask church members to review their level of giving and so we agreed to engage the Diocesan Adviser to help to set up a Stewardship campaign. But, in Spring

2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic arrived, from which we have yet to emerge! A true “Double Whammy”, no Stewardship and no fundraising possible!

1. **Receipts and Payments for the 12 months of the year to 31.12.21**

Receipts for the year totalled much the same in 2021 as in the previous year, and in similar conditions with lockdowns affecting activities in both years. Collections on Sundays were thus affected, although it is worth noting that the contactless payment machine now records something in the region of £100 in donations each month. Some of this, of course, might have previously been recorded as cash on the offertory plate; or as payment for guidebooks and cards; or indeed as other donations from weekday visitors. This, whilst being a welcome addition, produces an account challenge: you will see from the attached R & P statement that I am unable to specify which is which. Once again, this year, we felt it was not appropriate to charge Gateway advertisers, as printed copies were not being circulated. There were no coffee mornings on Wednesdays as in the past. There were no social events – Parish Suppers, Duck Race, Beetham Sports Stall. Nor has there been the opportunity to stop and chat after Sunday morning services over coffee and cakes!

Despite this, direct appeals for help for specific projects did meet with success thanks to the generosity of many. We have undertaken the restoration of the crib, now 75 years since it was presented to the Church by prisoners at the Bela Camp. Our success in 2020 in taking Christmas into the village when the church building was locked, was repeated and met with wholehearted support. And in November we were able to run a Hamper Raffle, thanks mainly to the tremendous response to our request for Christmas Hamper items. Thank you!

Expenditure continued as ever, despite restrictions on our activities. Our Parish Offering to the Diocese is based upon the Diocesan calculation of the overall cost of providing ministry: our offering being one half of the cost of a priest (not merely stipend, but housing, training, pension costs etc.). Insurance is essential and premiums must be met. Routine maintenance and safety checks are still required and repairs/replacements of equipment sometimes needed. This year we had to replace the floodlights, first installed in 1999, which had come to the end of their useful life. LED units have been installed: this does at least save on electricity bills! We were also able to complete the upgrade of the roof alarm system: this used funds remaining from the 2013 roof lead appeal and held in our savings account since then for this purpose. Our energy bills have until now remained stable, but are certainly destined to increase very markedly in the future. One other significant expense was the fee due to our architect to draw up plans for the partial reordering of the church interior. It is my view that we have no choice than to proceed with this project – with the help of grant-making bodies – as the present configuration does not lend itself to community events so essential for fund-raising. The primary function of the church building is of course worship: our task is to find ways to extend this, whilst respecting the need to preserve its existing character. This, in itself, makes the task more challenging and of course no less expensive!

2. **Cash / Investment balances at 31.12.21**

The attached account of Receipts and Payments displays an unnerving “bottom line” entry: our total assets diminished by over £16,000 in the course of 2021. £4,600 of this was for the roof alarm system; a further £8,000 was transferred in tranches of £2,000 at various times during the year to maintain liquidity in the current account.

3. Looking Ahead

All of the above does not make happy reading, but we must continue to show faith in the generosity of our church supporters – even if a little nudge may be required! Three years ago we resolved to institute a Stewardship Campaign: this was planned to happen once Andrew was installed, but the pandemic intervened! Further increases in costs and the passage of time have made the position now more urgent than ever. My personal view is that we should aim to cover our costs for the foreseeable future (allowing for inevitable price inflation) but not relying on fundraising to balance the books. In an ideal world, fundraising should instead be aimed at specific extra projects, wishes and needs – and would then serve to fill the equally important role of fun-raising!

4. Finally

I am sure I speak for us all in reiterating our huge debt of gratitude to Colin and Julie Clarke who painstakingly count every coin and note and travel regularly to the bank at Carnforth, now the nearest Barclays counter! We are enormously grateful to them.

We should also be aware of the quiet yet diligent undertaking of the role of Gift Aid Secretary carried out by Andy Macleod – the figures are a stark reminder of the value of Andy's work for us!

St Michael & All Angels, Beetham Receipts and Payments 2021														
RECEIPTS		2021	2020	PAYMENTS		2021	2020	NOTES						
Collections & Donations	2021 includes bookstall	a £28,633.97	£25,411.20	Upkeep of services		£232.02	£927.00	a	Includes regular giving, aims and donations in boxes					
Gift Aid Tax recovered		£5,607.71	£7,071.93	Organists		£5,775.00	£5,450.00							
Coffee Sunday mornings		£0.00	£167.35	Heat, Light & Cleaning		c £5,220.33	£6,303.67							
Wedding & Funeral Fees Gross		£4,557.00	£5,476.00	Insurance premium		£4,304.26	£4,256.66	b	Also includes contactless card payments					
Bookstall			£1,052.13	W & F Fees to DBF/organist/bellringers		£827.00	£1,859.00							
Wednesday Coffee & Cakes		£0.00		Cemetery & Chyd upkeep		£2,090.00	£3,089.60							
CBF Interest		£52.92	£51.08	Maint'ce & repairs		d £3,246.26	£2,680.92	c	Lockdowns had saved some energy costs, but prices sure to increase significantly					
Wedding, Funeral & Baptism collections				Copier		£1,029.60	£1,934.23							
Gateway advertising		£0.00		Stationery		£740.17	£223.90							
Grants	SLDC Closed chyd 2020 & 2021	£1,180.00		Parish Offering to Diocese		e £25,700.00	£23,366.00							
	Beetham Sports			Charities		£324.00		d	Mostly annual routine checks and servicing but also new LED external floodlights					
	BCHT	£0.00	£2,000.00	Priest-in-charge expenses		£1,596.83	£1,137.60							
	Other one-off donations		£400.00	Christmas incl Brightening Beetham		£519.95	£914.07							
Fundraising events			£546.80	Printing cards, books etc			£756.90							
	Plant sale	£705.00		Fabric: projects			£511.30	e	This equates to the costs borne by the Diocese in the provision of Ministry					
	Cookbooks	£90.00		Broadband : roof alarm		f £321.50	£206.40							
	Hamper Raffle	£702.00		Alarm upgrade Installation		£4,656.00								
Brightening B'm - donations		£630.00	£952.00	Other: Gifts			£257.44							
Crib restoration - donations		£759.15		Crib restoration		£1,346.40		f	The surplus from the Roof Lead Appeal had been held since 2013 for this necessary upgrade					
For Flowers		£100.00	£100.00	Architect fee		g £1,596.00								
Deposit a/c interest		£2.68	£24.35	CCLI/SLDC Licence		£235.72	£20.00							
Other incl some bookstall, some specific donations	b	£869.85		Website		£78.00	£120.00							
				Flowers for Easter and Weddings		£133.38		g	Fees relating to reordering proposals					
				Sundry		£144.92								

John Lomax
Hon. Treasurer
15.03.22

I certify that I have scrutinised the accounting documentation for Beetham PCC for the calendar year 2021 and found them to be a true representation of the financial transactions for that period.

D. R. Carey

04.04.2022

David R Carey FCCA (ret'd)

Willowdene, 6 Chapel Close
Storth, Milnthorpe LA7 7BU

Agenda item 4.1: Gift Aid report 2021

Summary

From eligible donations given during 2021 we have been able to claim for church funds a total of **£5,452.75** in tax repayments (compared with **£7,004.59** claimed in 2020). The summary table below shows the total tax repayments received in recent years under the two different Gift Aid schemes:

- Gift Aid Donations – a Gift Aid Declaration has been completed by the donor, either by a single form to cover all donations made by the donor, or by a signed declaration on each donation envelope.
- GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) – a Gift Aid style payment may be claimed from HMRC on cash donations of £30 or less, where no Gift Aid Declaration has been received, up to a maximum claim of £2,000 on a maximum total of £8,000 received in small donations within a tax year.

Gift Aid Scheme	Eligible Donations 2021	Tax Claimed 2021	Tax Claimed 2020	Tax Claimed 2019	Tax Claimed 2018
Gift Aid Donations	£21,809.12	£5,452.75	£5,004.59	£5,316.64	£5,219.90
GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,821.82
Grand Total	£21,809.12	£5,452.75	£7,004.59	£7,316.64	£7,041.72

The total received from Gift Aid Donations was higher in 2021 than in 2020 (£5,452.75 compared with £5,004.59). However, the total received in 2021 from the small donations GASDS scheme was zero (compared with the maximum £2,000 claimed in 2020). Very little eligible non gift aided cash was given during the 2020/2021 tax year as a result of COVID-19 intermittent church closures, restricted baptisms, weddings, funerals and cancelled fundraising events. However, it may still be possible to submit a retrospective claim on the few small amounts that were received.

Gift Aid Donations Claims

To assist with church cash flow, four claims were made throughout the year on the total of £21,809.12 given in Gift Aid Donations. The final payment was received from HMRC in February 2022 and therefore the 2021 total Gift Aid repayments listed below will not match the 2021 church accounts figure for Gift Aid repayments received.

Claim Period	Eligible Donations 2021	Tax Claimed 2021
Mar-21	£4,848.00	£1,212.00
Jun-21	£6,868.62	£1,717.16
Sep-21	£5,257.50	£1,314.38
Dec-21	£4,835.00	£1,209.21
Grand Total	£21,809.12	£5,452.75

Method of Giving

A total of 55 different individuals gave through Gift Aid during 2021, mostly through standing order or online banking payments directly into the church bank account. The table below illustrates the increasing trend in recent years towards direct bank payments rather than physical envelope donations. The table also illustrates the vast reduction in numbers of donors in recent years. Both trends are a natural reflection of the limited church opening during the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent reduction in numbers of visitors.

Donation Method	2021 Number of Donors	2020 Number of Donors	2019 Number of Donors	2018 Number of Donors
Bank	33	34	28	28
Gift Aid envelopes	11	24	119	139
Numbered envelopes	11	14	16	18
Grand Total	55	72	163	185

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who have undertaken to Gift Aid their donations and collectively make such a significant difference to church income.

Andrew MacLeod

15 February 2022

Agenda Item 5: Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report 2022

“The committee has the responsibility for implementing the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the church.”

The Pandemic has again curtailed the normal functioning of the Fabric Committee over the past year. However, we continued to manage the regular annual services and inspections which are needed to ensure that our church is safe and functions properly.

WORKDAYS

We have held “tidying up” workdays over the year in the churchyard (pruning, weeding, ivy removal etc) and managed to fill a skip with rubble from the cemetery.

ELECTRICAL ISSUES

We have not experienced any problems with the electrical circuits in 2021. However, as we do not have a lightening conductor system, we hope to continue this year with our investigation into providing surge protection to all the electrical circuits.

CCTV UPGRADE

The upgraded CCTV installation, which protects the lead roofs on the north side of the church, is now fully operational with up-to-date cameras and monitoring equipment.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Our thanks go again to Brian who has been carrying out ongoing risk assessments for the church during the second year of the Pandemic.

CLEANING TEAMS

Our thanks also go to those who have continued to keep our church clean and tidy throughout the Pandemic.

RE-ORDERING OF CHURCH

The faculty for the reordering of the church is now in progress. The application covers the total reordering proposals discussed during the DAC site visit and agreed by the PCC, after consultation with the community. Funding is available for Phase 1 where the plans are to turn the back nave pews around to form a more practical space for welcoming, Baptism seating around the font, and enlarged and safer social space for serving coffee and kitchen/WC access. It will also include the reinstating of the main font cover, which was

moved for health and safety reasons several years ago. Future phases of the reordering proposals will be dependent on fundraising and grants.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Faculty permission is also being sought from the DAC, following a site visit in February, for a new permanent Garden of Remembrance in the Burial Ground. This will have a memorial stone remembering the names of those whose ashes are buried in the Garden.

Harry Parrott, Fabric Committee Secretary

Agenda Item 6: Kendal Deanery Synod Report

The Kendal Deanery Synod was again affected by the Covid-19 pandemic during 2021 so the March and July meetings were held via Zoom with synod members joining the meeting online from their own homes. The October meeting was held at Barbon and was attended by Vivien Stirrup and the Reverend Andrew Norman. The meetings focused on three of the God for All themes to: “Speak Boldly”, “Tread Gently” and “Care Deeply”.

At the March meeting Linda Woodhead Professor of Religion and Society at Lancaster University spoke about the religious and cultural context of the UK today and the challenge of Speaking Boldly about the Gospel. The results of a recent survey had showed that 40% of those asked about their religion described themselves as Christian. Further questions indicated that 56% of these did not show evidence of the behaviours or particular beliefs associated with Church membership. Even so, this nominal association still indicates continuing positivity towards the church. She indicated that the church is no longer seen as the main influence in matters of morality and ethics, spirituality, tradition, the transcendental and the sacred. There are now many people providing spiritual teaching and healing outside churches. To Be effective, Speaking Boldly for the church would mean offering genuine ethical, spiritual or ‘heritage and cultural identity’ benefits which are not available elsewhere.

The focus of the July meeting was “Tread Gently – caring for our common home” and Pam Martin gave an enthusiastic presentation of A Rocha’s ‘Eco Church’ project and particularly its initial self-assessment which helps churches to take steps in care of the created world and environmental action. Pam pointed out that this can be a powerful tool in local mission and outreach, being particularly of interest to children and young people. She gave practical examples of actions which churches could take and emphasised that even small steps taken make a big difference.

October’s meeting on the theme of “Care Deeply” aimed to introduce members of Synod to the resources of ‘Living in Love and Faith’ (LLF), a series of resources initiated by the House of Bishops. LLF seeks to enable the Church to explore issues of identity, sexuality, relationship and marriage in order to see God’s will and to learn to live with each other in our particular time. LLF resources include both printed and online material. The LLF book explores the themes of: What we have received; What is happening in society and biological sciences; Where we are in relation to God’s story in scripture; How we end up with differing interpretations and Stories of people taking the issues further. The course has five sessions: Learning together; Our identity in Christ and how it relates to life choices; Relationships; Sex; Diversity and life together. These areas are explored through Bible study, teaching, prayer and reflection, all linked to personal stories. Subsequently it was decided that the LLF course should be undertaken in the deanery with an invitation to all congregations to participate. The course was well attended and a further opportunity is to be offered in 2022.

Key points from business items:

- It was noted that in no Deanery did the 2021 Parish Offer meet the cost of ministry. The 2021 Parish Offer from the Kendal Deanery met only 86% of the cost of ministry within it. The 2021

Parish Offer is 12% lower than two years ago. The current indications are that the underlying trend of a growing gap between Offer and cost of ministry is continuing and must potentially lead to a further reduction in stipendiary posts. It was noted that cost saving measures taken by the diocese have been substantial and eased the immediate situation in 2021.

- Clergy and Lay elections to Diocesan Synod were noted
- During the year Deanery Synod members were given the opportunity and responsibility of electing members to General Synod.

Dorothy MacLeod and Vivien Stirrup, Deanery Synod members

Agenda Item 7: Beetham CE Primary School Report

The end of the school year saw the retirement of long standing headteacher Wendy Nicholas and the appointment of Abi Johnson.

Wendy was able to complete two projects before she retired; the school field and the entrance porch.

The purchase of the school field had increased the amount of outdoor provision we were able to provide the children but Wendy, with the fundraising support of the FOBS, added the extra of a hard core running track which now means the children can use the space all year round.

The second project was the erection of the porch on the front of school. This now provides a secure entrance for the school as well as a waiting area for visitors. It was a delight for the school to welcome the Bishop of Carlisle to officially open the porch in July.

September saw the 66 children enrolled into school ranging in ages from 3 to 11. The whole school made angels to decorate the church for the celebration of the Feast of Michaelmas. We also held a service for all our friends and families in the church.

The beginning of October saw the celebration of Harvest at Beetham CE School. Each class performed a poem or song in church to an audience of family and friends. We also brought in items of food which were donated to Milnthorpe Food Bank.

Reading at Beetham CE School is a key part of the education we provide. We not only teach children to read for meaning but also support reading for pleasure. This month we have challenged all children to take part in 'The Big RED SHED' sponsored read. This is where children are challenged to **Read Every Day or SHare (a book) Every Day**. Approximately £1500 was raised from this event.

During November, we held a service at the village Cenotaph for Remembrance Day. Children read Bible verses and also a poem to remind us of those who have given their lives for us. We also laid a wreath at the church service.

School council organised a Pudsey Day for Children in Need. We had activities such as lucky dips, non-uniform and a colouring competition. In total we raised £140 in total which was great.

At the end of November, we held the school Winter Fair, organised by the FOBS (Friends of Beetham School). The weather was extremely kind to us and on a sunny winter morning we had a great turn out to see Santa and visit the stalls on offer.

December saw the start of our Christmas celebrations. All children made beautiful decorations to hang around the school and on the trees – the school looked amazing!

EYFS and KS1 also performed their Nativity 'Shine Star Shine' for an audience of parents over two afternoons in the church. They did an amazing job and thanks must go to all the children and staff involved for making this such a wonderful occasion.

Year 5 and 6 were asked to support the Arnside Landscape Trust and spent the morning planting new hedgerow around Coldwell Nature Reserve. The children had a wonderful morning and planted a significant number of trees.

The last week of term saw us all together for the Christmas Lunch. We were able to all sit together to eat the lovely meal that had been prepared for us before watching a Christmassy film in the afternoon. The special man himself (Santa) also made an appearance later in the week at our Christmas Parties where he gave every child a gift – a truly special occasion.

On our final day of term, all the children took part in the Carol Service led by the singing of the Juniors and readings from Year 5 and 6. They shared the nativity story as written in the Bible before finally singing a wonderful 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' to the congregation.

Children in our junior class had the opportunity to take part in a regional Cross-Country event at Casterton, Sedburgh Prep School. All the children did really well completing the challenging course but we make a special mention to Ben who came third in his race, Arthur and Lucy who both came in the top 20 in their races. Well done to all the children they did amazing!

We January by learning about Candlemas. We learnt the story of Simeon and Anna at the Temple before taking part in activities to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. We each made a Christingle whilst learning about the different elements, followed by recycling old jars to make candle holders and finally we made candles. The years 5 and 6 children recycled the candles from church and school to make their own candles to take home and use, whilst the rest of the school made candles using recycled toilet roll tubes. The morning concluded with a service at church where all the children lit their Christingles in our time of reflection as the lights went down.

We have some very successful runners in our school who were selected to represent the South Lakes District in the County Finals at Hunter Hall, Penrith. We are really proud of Ben, Lucy and Arthur who endured a challenging course (include a stream and wall jump!) and came 15th, 16th and 30th in their races.

Part of our school motto is Caring for Everyone. To celebrate this aspect of the school we held an ethos morning where activities were planned to learn more about how we can care for each other and our environment. We welcomed members of Kendal Fire Service and Kendal Police Service who talked to us about how to stay safe on the roads; Mrs Bradshaw stepped in at the last minute to complete the activities designed by the AONB on the topic of recycling and caring for our environment; and members of Years 5 and 6 designed activities of sharing a book mark with others to show we care about them and making bird feeders for the school field and garden. The morning was a great success where children truly showed their caring sides by working together in their house groups.

PCSO Newman returned to school to help inform the Year 5 and 6 children about Online safety. They completed a workshop before planning their own activities to deliver to the rest of the school. On Safer Internet Day all the children in Year 5 and 6 engaged the different classes in activities to help each child stay safe online and make the correct choices when using the Internet. It was lovely to see the children learning from each other – another part of our motto.

The final week of term was Children's Mental Health Week. We thought about the different emotions that we all feel at different times and how we could talk about these as well as support each other to show these emotions rather than bottling them up. Some children even make scribble drawings showing the different emotions as a caricature.

Our half term concluded with the majority of the school staying for the FOBS film night. Children changed into their PJs and the lights were turned low for the screening of Despicable Me and Paddington with servings of popcorn and sweets – a great way to finish the half term!

This term was also cause for celebration on two fronts. Firstly, the arrival of our new chromebooks. We now have enough chromebooks for each child to use during their Computing lessons as well as support learning in

other areas of the curriculum. This means the children are able to develop their skills independently on equipment that can keep up with them! Our second piece of good news was the success of our bid for the National Lottery: Awards for All Grant. This was to purchase and install the trim trail on the field – work should begin soon!

Abi Johnson Headteacher

Agenda Item 8: Safeguarding

Most of the advice from the Diocese is now on line, and the PCC members are expected to complete the Safeguarding courses 0 and 01 and the Domestic violence course. Brian, Dianne and I are enrolled to attend the new face-to-face Safeguarding courses in May. Anyone who needs to update their DBS certificate will be notified. This is no longer a form filling in exercise, but has to be completed on-line. Please send any course completed certificates to me for recording purposes.

Sue Smalley March 2022

Agenda Item 9: Reports from church groups

(a) Friends of Beetham Church

(b) Social Events

BEETHAM CHURCH SOCIAL REPORT 2021/22

Despite what may or may not have happened in Downing Street, there have been no social gatherings nor parties at Beetham Church.

However, we live in hope of better times, so for your diaries, the next Harvest Supper is scheduled for Friday 30th September 2022! We look forward to seeing you there.

Dianne Lomax

2/2/22

(c) Beetham Bell Ringers

Last year's report ended with the words "We look forward to the day when the bells will ring out over the village again in celebration, in hope, and in calling people to worship". Finally, last July we were delighted to be able to ring the tower bells again, although with some trepidation after such a long gap. Since then the band has continued to practice on a Wednesday evening, call people to prayer on a Sunday morning, and ring for all significant occasions – weddings, funerals, national celebrations, and events such as COP26. We are now planning a special ring for the Platinum Jubilee weekend and thanks go to Brian for his patience in teaching us and his insistence on us doing our homework!

Concerns about the spread of a new variant of Covid delayed the restart of the handbell practices, but we returned to the church in October 2021 so that we could practice carols in time for Christmas.

Sadly, performing live had to be restricted but we managed to play for the New Hutton WI Christmas Meal mid-December, and then for the Walks for All dementia group at Silverdale in January 2022. We were also able to record three carols live for the Beetham Christmas Video – in very few takes, although one or two mistakes did not make the final cut...

We were really sorry to say goodbye to Sarah Easton in January as she has been such an enthusiastic tower and handbell ringer for several years. We all miss her, but our loss is others gain as we have already heard from her that she has been bellringing down south, so we look forward to picking up tips from her in the future

There is always room for new ringers if anyone would like to give either towerbells or handbells a go. Please have a word with any of us on a Sunday morning or just come along to a practice

Jenny Marks, Tower Captain

Thanks to Jenny for her incredible work on the church website, as Editor of Gateway and Tower Captain. We are in awe of her expertise.

(d) Church Website, The Gateway and Community Report

The website at www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk continued to be a useful source of communication during the lockdowns at the start of the year, with news of reopening proposals and Covid precautions as we worked towards opening the church again for worship. It also had links to the weekly online audio services recorded by The Rev'd Andrew Norman and Geoffrey Field, and to the increasing number of YouTubes recorded by members of the congregation, the choir and the school to mark each special event within the church year. I am grateful to all who embraced the technology and spent many hours at home recording. All of the links are still available on the website, as are the latest church notices and the electronic copy of The Gateway each month

For the first part of the year The Gateway continued to be online only, circulated by email and posted on the church website. The decision was taken to start printed copies again from September 2021 with a limited distribution and back to full distribution around the parish by Christmas. Thanks go to all the contributors from the community and the church who have continued to provide such interesting articles throughout the year, and especially to Clive Holden for his regular challenging Quiz! Thank you also to all the volunteers who fold so many copies or distribute the magazine each month to homes and businesses across the parish, and to our advertisers for their continued support. We still need distributors for Whasset and Elmsfield, so if you can help please let us know.

Jenny Marks, Gateway Editor

Worship

It is essential to thank everyone who has been involved in contributing to worship at St. Michael & All Angels during this past 12 months, particularly the Rev. Andrew Norman and the full worship team including David Peacock, Geoff Turner, Geoff Field and Jenny Marks for her technological expertise. We also thank the choir, the readers, the intercessors and the community band for their own, special contributions to the worship here at St. Michael's & All Angels.

Pastoral Care

This has again been a difficult year in a lot of respects however the support systems that were set up during the pandemic continue to thrive, all be it on a more informal basis.

There is a very real concern for people with dementia within South Lakeland. Within our own church community we have a Dementia Enabler, Friend and Champion who continues to work alongside people living with dementia and their carers, whilst working with other groups to support the work of the Alzheimer Society.

Within Cumbria there is a growing recognition of the special needs which accompany older people and an important initiative called 'Anna Chaplaincy' was launched in the county in 2020. Anna Chaplaincy seeks to accompany older people at this, often difficult, stage of life. Within the Kent Estuary Mission community we are trying to raise awareness of this very valuable chaplaincy and I take this opportunity to ask whether there is anyone interested within our church community who would like more information and understanding of this initiative.

At St. Michael & All Angels we continue to support one another and the community in whatever way needed.

Wednesday Communion

No Wednesday services have been held since the last APCM Community Report was produced.

Evensong Services

Special Choral Evensong Services have been reintroduced since the last APCM Community Report was produced. A real step forward and a further indication that the restrictions imposed during the pandemic are being relaxed.

Home Communion

No home visits have been able to take place because of Government restrictions.

Nursing Home Visits

Communion has not been taken to the two nursing homes that we regularly visit during the past year because of the vulnerability of residents and the ongoing caution to keep residents safe. Both Elmsfield Nursing Home at Whasset and Lunesdale Nursing Home in Hale have been contacted with an offer to resume visits with a view to sharing communion.

School Links

Children have used the church regularly during the recent months and it's been a joy to see them worshipping in the church environment. Sanitation remains an important aspect of our risk assessment and takes place whenever necessary

Village Coffee Mornings

No coffee mornings have taken place during the past twelve months. It is assumed that once coffee has been reinstated after Sunday morning services, then the regular monthly coffee mornings will be considered for reintroduction. A new fridge has been purchased in readiness.

Flower Festival 2021

Sadly, this event was cancelled in 2021 but we are planning to hold a Flower Festival and display this year which will commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year by depicting her reign throughout the seven decades. The date will be: 2nd – 5th June which will coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday.

Beetham Community Band

Beetham Community Band have been able to recommence rehearsals in church most Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 12 noon in church. Sadly, the band has lost their regular conductor as she has defected 'down south'. However, that doesn't seem to affect the quality of playing as most band members seem to play to their own time and rhythm anyway. Just one of the joys of this welcoming community band!

The band has played at Silverdale on 8th February for a group of walkers, some living with dementia, and their carers. The band has been asked to play again for the same group - a repeat booking obviously reflecting how well the band played!

The band also played outside Beetham Garden Centre before Christmas on two evenings where the elements conspired to either blow away the 'bandsters' and their instruments or drench them in torrential rain. Sadly customers to the Garden Centre were also in a hurry to escape the weather and didn't seem to have much time to contribute to the charity collection bucket.

Our thanks also go to Tess and Ned who continue wholeheartedly to support the band that they set up some years ago. They are an inspiration to us all.

In conclusion

This last year has seen a relaxation in restrictions imposed because of the pandemic. We are blessed to belong to our church family of St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham and we look forward to a continuation in the relaxation of special covid-related measures so that we can be together in worship and fellowship under more 'normal' circumstances.

Viv Stirrup

(e) Bookstall

All the goods have been put away during the pandemic, but soon we will hopefully be able to re-stock. We managed to sell some Christmas cards during the periods when the church was open and most of the stock sold out. Many people now use the new card reader to pay, which is very convenient but means that it is not easy now to record what the money is for and so which goods have been purchased. You can still use the box in the wall.

During the lockdown we have been planning to replace the old guide brochure. We intend to replace it with a number of booklets on individual topics, e.g. windows, textiles, music, and I am very grateful for the offers of help to prepare these texts. They will add to the existing booklets on the Crib and the WW1 Soldiers which John Lomax prepared. Anyone who would like to offer a specialist topic e.g. brasses, memorials, please get in touch. Any suggestions for items or cards to sell will be much appreciated.

Sue Smalley

March 2022

(f) Church Flowers

BEETHAM CHURCH FLOWER REPORT 2021/22

Flowers are usually arranged by a rota of eleven members of the congregation in the Sanctuary and Porch throughout the year, excepting Advent and Lent. The team is further assisted by other members in decorating the Church for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, together with poppies on Remembrance Sunday.

The Coronavirus in 2020/22 has resulted in three national lockdowns and restricted use of the Church, thus suspending the Flower Rota for the last two years.

Fortunately, Easter 2021 saw the reopening of the Church for the Sunday services. The Church was splendidly decorated for the festival with the usual array of Spring flowers. Daffodils were distributed to the departing Congregation and placed again on Sandy's Cross.

From Easter, a flower arrangement was again placed in the porch each week together with the Sanctuary flowers to indicate that the Church was still there for everybody. I am very grateful to all those people who have been kind enough to give donations towards the cost of the flowers.

The release of restrictions on 19th July allowed the Church to be reopened each day. This enabled the Patronal Festival in September to be celebrated with a display of flowers, readings and angels made by the pupils of Beetham School, entitled 'Ye Holy Angels Bright'. The flowers with their appropriate readings were recorded on You Tube. Flowers were also arranged for Harvest Festival.

Arrangements of poppies in the Sanctuary and by the War Memorial to accompany the 'there but not there' figures, were put in place on Remembrance Sunday.

The Advent Wreath and Paschal Candle were prepared again and the Church decorated for the Christmas Festival with greenery and with the usual flowers in white, red and silver and gold.

With the easing of the Covid restrictions, the Sanctuary Flower Rota was reinstated for 2022.

Fifty small bunches of daffodils were again put together for distribution on Mothering Sunday in March. The Easter Garden was prepared and the Church decorated for the Easter Festival in April.

We are very grateful to everyone who continues to help, give and arrange the flowers, as well as for the donations towards oasis, flowers for 'extra' occasions etc.

The Church flowers remain an important part of the peace and tranquillity of Beetham Church and of course, are particularly important during these present difficult and trying times.

Dianne Lomax,

2/2/2022

(g) Choir and Music 2021

Over the last year the choir has gradually started to resume more of its traditional role as Covid restrictions have gradually eased. The initial move back to a 'live' choir, suitably distanced from each other and everybody else in the Lady Chapel, meant that choral singing was heard once more by our appreciative congregation. The first full Carol Service in two years was also much enjoyed by everyone, and I would like to thank the choir for learning and performing their music with enthusiasm and style. The number of hymns sung in the morning service has also increased to four, and both choir and congregation are becoming familiar with the Mass setting by David Thorne. The choir has also started to sing some services from their old home in the choir stalls, again suitably distanced, and this has not only helped the choristers to hear each other more clearly, and the organ, but also presented a more coherent sound for the congregation. The repertoire of anthems and Evening Service settings has continued to grow. With the future upgrading of the choir stalls, which will enable all to sit and sing in comfort, the outlook for the choir is very good. I am very grateful to all the choir members for their continued hard work and dedication throughout this difficult year, and would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Marks for her excellent organ playing.

Geoffrey Field

Agenda Item 10: Churchwardens' Report

Churchwardens' Report on the year 2021 (for presentation to the Annual Meeting 2022)

The final paragraph of last year's report (on the year 2020) began with the sentence: "2020 has been a year like no other and this report will reflect that". It seems appropriate to re-use the (slightly modified) sentence to open this report on the year 2021.

The year began in lockdown, and the energy and enthusiasm with which our (limited) Christmas celebrations had been enjoyed were put on hold as Government restrictions and common sense made it impossible to hold regular services. However, we were again sustained and well-served by Andrew's weekly e-mail and the series of YouTube videos for special occasions: Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter Day itself – although in the latter case, as on Good Friday, we were able to hold a service in church. And at the end of the year, two further videos recording Christmas at Beetham and the Christmas Eve Crib Service were added to the list. The work, skill and commitment required to produce these on-line resources cannot be over-estimated and mere words cannot adequately express our gratitude to Andrew, Geoff and Jenny. Nor, of course, to the members of the choir and the readers who made recordings in isolation to make the whole process viable. For evidence of the impact of this whole process on the worshipping life of this church and community, a quick look at the 'Coronavirus Resources' page on the website will suffice.

And it also worthy of note and further thanks that the pupils at Beetham C of E School made a major contribution to several of the recorded services with their singing, reading and artwork. Their involvement in the efforts to keep our worship alive during the lockdown is also a tribute to the support and encouragement given to the church by Wendy Nicholas, whose decision to retire at the end of the school year marked a major milestone in the links between the church and the school. We were sorry to see Wendy go, but we count ourselves fortunate to have been able to work with Wendy for the 17 years of her tenure and we are grateful for her commitment to developing the links between the church and the school. We are now equally fortunate to be working with her successor, Abi Johnson, who has already established a regular series of services and assemblies in church during the autumn term as a sign that the links continue to grow.

As we lived through the restrictions of the pandemic, we were able to anticipate, and then enjoy, the different steps which led to a resumption of a pattern of church life that we could all recognise and be grateful for. The Standing Committee and the PCC together agreed that we should open our church for public worship at Easter, and there followed a carefully agreed series of key decisions: at the beginning of May, the church was opened for one day a week for private prayer and visitors; singing in church (although restricted) also resumed in May, and has played an increasing part in our worship ever since. The Churchwardens, elected at the Annual Vestry Meeting in May, were admitted to their office by the Archdeacon in person rather than via a Zoom session. We were able to hear the tower bells again in July and the church was opened up for other activities (the Handbells, the Community Band) in September, at which time we were also able to open the church seven days a week. Throughout these months, our Risk Assessment was constantly updated and the protocols put in place to keep everyone safe were regularly monitored. That our Sunday congregations have averaged around 45 is an indication that everyone has felt confident in the arrangements we put in place. We are grateful to the PCC and the congregation for their support and cooperation.

As the year progressed, hopes were raised that we would be able to re-establish some of the activities that mark Beetham out as being a very special church and community. A plant stall, this time in Dianne and John's front garden, raised over £500. A Harvest Supper was

not possible, but another YouTube video recalling Harvest Suppers past was an enjoyable substitute. We were able to run our Christmas Hamper Raffle and had a stall at the school Winter Fair where we sold more tickets and helped to raise an invaluable £700 for our depleted funds. Carol Singing took place at Slackhead and in Beetham and £565 was raised for Crisis at Christmas. The Brightening Beetham project was doubly significant in showing that we were active and in providing much needed cheer. The outdoor Crib, together with the trees and the lights on the pergola and around the porch (not forgetting the trees around the village and the full-size tree in the church), was a visible sign of a return to 'normal' life. Many thanks to the Friends Committee and to all who helped to ensure the success of these events.

As always, it is impossible to mention individually everyone who has worked hard to ensure that the life of the church has not only survived but thrived. However, there are some people who must be named in order to record their contribution to St Michael & All Angels during an unprecedentedly difficult period. First, the Worship Team under Andrew's leadership has ensured that our primary *raison d'être*, the worship of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, has continued to grow. The Rev'd Geoff Turner and the Rev'd David Peacock have continued to provide cover when Andrew has been away fulfilling his responsibilities in Arnside and Storth. And our licensed Lay Ministers, Viv and Chris have played an increasingly supportive role on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Choral Evensongs which were a feature of the closing months of the year and which have prepared the way (hopefully) for a return to weekly services of Evensong in the not too distant future.

We mentioned above the welcome boost to church funds from the Plant Stall and the Hamper Draw and this leads us to record a special vote of thanks to John who has continued to organise and monitor our ongoing financial obligations for yet another year. His comprehensive and clear reports to the PCC have enabled financial decisions to be made with a complete knowledge and appreciation of our financial situation. The Accounts accompanying the Annual Report give an indication of all the work involved and we acknowledge our debt to John for his guidance and advice.

As PCC Secretary, Elizabeth has given us the confidence of knowing that all the necessary legislative and legal requirements are safely met in her capable hands and has enabled us to give our attention to the day to day management of the church. Standing Committee and PCC Minutes are always comprehensive and provide a timely *aide-mémoire* of our deliberations. Our thanks go to her.

As they do to Dorothy and Viv for representing St Michael & All Angels on the Deanery Synod and to all the members of the PCC for their many and varied contributions to the life of the church. And to Sue for keeping up to date with the changes to Safeguarding legislation and the practices which support it. Safeguarding Training – both on-line and face-to-face – continues to place obligations on the church and the importance of the role of Safeguarding Officer has never been greater.

One of the consequences of opening up the church was the need to ensure it always looked its best. Many thanks to Dianne for marshalling her team so that the Beetham tradition of superb floral decorations resumed without a hitch after the break. And also thanks to the small team who have managed the cleaning of the church during the lockdown(s). Also, the

Fabric Committee has continued to oversee the maintenance of the building and to push ahead with the process of applying for a Faculty in connection with the re-ordering of the church. A display of the plans showing the proposed changes along with an explanation of the reasons for them resulted in numerous comments, all of which were positive and constructive. Many thanks to Jenny for the display and for organising the maintenance schedule.

Sadly, we lost good friends during 2021. Peggy Cox's funeral took place just at the start of the January lockdown, and later in the year we remembered Elaine Goodlad and Jean Metcalfe with funeral services in church. Three further funerals, two burials of ashes, five weddings and two marriage blessings, together with four baptisms completed a busy year, despite the time spent in lockdown. Prince Philip's death in April was commemorated with a special service on the eve of his funeral and by the tolling of the tenor bell on three separate occasions, each time with 99 strokes – one for each year of his life.

The aim of this report is to review the year and remind everyone of what has been achieved. We feel confident that all will agree with our conclusion that St Michael & All Angels continues to provide support, comfort and hope for the future.

Dianne, Ian and Brian, March 2022

Agenda Item 11: Priest's Report

To be given orally at the meeting

Agenda Item 12: Elections and Appointments

- (a) Parochial Church Council Members
- (b) Independent Examiner

Agenda Item 13: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Closing Prayers