

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

at St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

Sunday 30th November - The First Sunday of Advent

11.00am - Parish Eucharist

6.00pm - Advent Carol Service

Wednesday 3rd December

10.30am - Holy Communion

Friday 5th December

3.30pm - 4.30pm - The Launch of 'Brightening Beetham' (with music and refreshments)

Sunday 7th December - The Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am - Mission Community Gathering (united service) at Arnside Methodist Church

6.00pm - Evensong

Sunday 16th December - The Third Sunday of Advent

11.00am - Parish Eucharist

6.00pm - Evensong

Wednesday 17th December

6.00pm - Parish Carol Singing around Slackhead (meet in the church car park)

Thursday 18th December

4.00pm - 'Blue Christmas' Service (for those who find this time of year difficult) at Storth Village Church

6.00pm - Parish Carol Singing around Beetham (meet in the church car park)

Sunday 21st December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00am - Parish Eucharist

6.00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Wednesday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm - Christingle & Crib Service

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am - Eucharist of Christmas Day



St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

## Brightening Beetham

Friday 5th December  
'switch on' at c.3.45pm



All are welcome to join us between 3.30pm and 4.30pm for the launch (with music and seasonal refreshments) and 'switch-on' of this year's Brightening Beetham in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels as we light up the village for Advent and Christmas

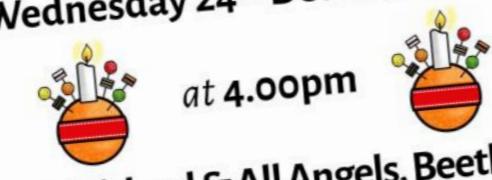
Donations to The Salvation Army  
Christmas Appeal

Meet in the church park each evening  
at 6.00pm with warm clothing and torches.



Everyone is invited to our...  
**CHRISTINGLE  
& CRIB SERVICE**  
on CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025



at 4.00pm

in St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

All are welcome on this most special day of the year as we hear again the story of Jesus' birth, prepare our Nativity crib, light our Christingles and celebrate together the good news of God's love for all.

The Christingle is also an opportunity for us to raise funds for the work of The Children's Society. There will be envelopes available in church, or please do bring along your Christingle candle collection box with any donations you can give.

Thank you very much!

The  
Children's  
Society

**BEETHAM PARISH  
CAROL SINGING**

Wednesday 17th December  
around Slackhead

Thursday 18th December  
around Beetham

Can you  
complete the  
Beetham Nativity Trail?



**FREE FUN  
for everyone!**

Booklets (with trail map)  
available from  
the church porch

Running between  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 -  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Complete between  
**9.30am-3.30pm any day**  
(apart from Christmas Day)

You might even find a small prize at the end!



# THE GATEWAY

PARISH MAGAZINE OF  
ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BEETHAM

**DECEMBER 2025**

[www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk](http://www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk)

"ONCE IN OUR WORLD, A STABLE HAD SOMETHING IN IT THAT WAS BIGGER THAN OUR WHOLE WORLD"

C.S Lewis

I am forever amazed how Christmas seems to come upon us at increasing speed. It would appear to be commensurate with our age. As a 'wee bairn' Christmas always seemed to be so far away. When we were allowed to stick cotton wool on the windows and design our Christmas party crowns, we could almost touch it. The anticipation of the day and all that came with it was almost painful. Had we been kind, naughty or nice ....the magic of Christmas could heal any perceived disappointment, the Spirit of Christmas always won in the end. Take away all the gifts, party food, nothing could hinder the unique power of Christmas.

"The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable" Ralph W Sockman

Once we understood that Christmas was so much more. The air of anticipation passed down the ages and came to rest upon a young couple. Unbeknownst to them the child the young woman brought into the world would forever be the focus of Christmas. His first Christmas. Our first Christmas. So we are not unlike the heavily expectant mother, rushing around, gathering everything in. Nesting. Preparing for the arrival of their first child who would change everything.

"Keep your Christmas heart open all year round" Jessica Archmint

I once wrote a piece, "I still believe" a few Christmas times ago. I still do believe and will gaze skyward to be looking into that starry night for a hint of red and white and silent hooves, and my heart will be childlike once more. But were it not for that young couple in that stable whose story we tell each year, what would Christmas be? Under the largest star in the sky, they brought forth hope, love and the brightest light into our World.

"God bless us, everyone" Tiny Tim ~  
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens

wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Tess Rowlands



## Letter from The Revd Andrew Norman

Dear friends,

One of my favourite writers, as the season of Advent gives way to Christmas, is the twentieth century poet and teacher Ursula Askham Fanthorpe, who writes with humour, insight and faith about the celebrations soon to be upon us.

Her poem, 'Angels Song' encapsulates this well, in which she reflects not only on the response of the angel host to the events of the nativity, but seeks to understand and frame this within the bigger story of where Jesus' life will ultimately lead.

*Intimates of heaven,  
This is strange to us,  
The unangelic muddle.  
The birth, the human fuss.*

*We sing a harder carol now:  
Holy the donkey in the hay;  
Holy the manger made of wood,  
Holy the nails, the blood, the clay.*



The reference to 'unangelic muddle' and 'human fuss' particularly struck me in contemplating all that the coming weeks will hold as we look ahead to the festivities, fun and frenzy that accompany our keeping of this most special time of the year. Not least since, for so many, 'muddle' and 'fuss' are perhaps apt descriptors for how we are usually encouraged (by our wider society and culture) to approach the Christmas period; not least when we consider the unhelpful pressure and sense of false materialist and consumerist expectation that so many feel as we near the twenty-fifth of December.

It is then - quite understandably - amidst the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of our lives that we approach and enter the weeks of Advent. That particular moment in the church's year for looking at ourselves and our world a bit more closely and so - in that act of looking - to realise how much we need a Saviour. A time for recognising that things (if we need a reminder) are 'not as they should be' and that instead of remaining detached, separate and isolated from human experience and the everyday circumstances of our lives, God is not simply merely interested but actively involved and fully committed. For such is the hope and promise to be discovered in the manger of Bethlehem, in the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of a human birth, where the Lord of heaven and earth draws close to us in love, grace and mercy.

For many people it can often seem easier to believe in evil rather than in God. Yet, in the acknowledgement of evil and wrong, seen in the brutality, fear and injustice of our daily news - in the reality of war and poverty, in the cries of the poor and the oppressed, in the sorrows of the marginalised, the isolated and the unloved - then you may be able to understand why we need a Saviour. One who comes not as the result of human endeavour, but as the pledge and proof of a faithful God who loves the world, and loves each and everyone of us, so very much.

This is the truth that lies waiting for us at the close of our Advent journey, as with angels, shepherds, wise-men we are drawn - just like countless generations - to kneel in wonder, joy and adoration before the child of Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, the Saviour of the world. The God who meets us in the 'muddle' and 'fuss' of life and tell us we are never alone.

As the carol, simply but effectively, puts it:

*And he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.*

With every good wish and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

As ever,

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

## Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas



Sunday 21st December  
at 6.00pm

A most wonderful way to mark our celebrations of Christmas, charting the 'tale of the loving purposes of God' through Scripture, carols and music in a candlelit church as we come together in praise of the God who comes to us as a baby in manager.

### Church Repair Fund

We are very grateful for your help in supporting our building appeal to repair the church fabric.

If you are able to do so, we invite you to help us by recycling your clean aluminium drinks cans, tin foil, pie cases, and blister packs. To check if an item is aluminium, simply test it with a magnet - aluminium will not respond.

You can kindly drop off your contributions in the marked black bin round the back of the church. If you have a larger donation such as unwanted items like old ladders etc, please don't hesitate to reach out to Deborah at 07899702476.



St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

## Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24th December  
at 11.30pm

## Christmas Morning Eucharist

Thursday 25th December  
at 11.00am

*'Hail thou every blessed morn,  
hail redemption's happy dawn!'*



**Please join the churches of the Kent Estuary in a Mission Community Gathering**  
**10.30am, Sunday 7th December in Arnside Methodist Church**

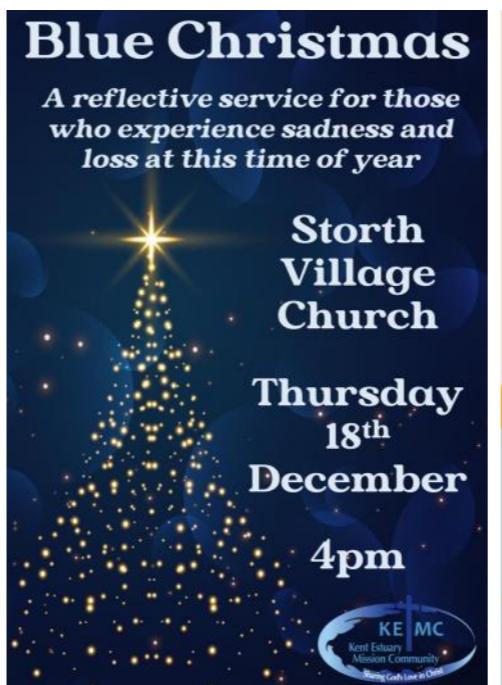
*Please note there will be no service at Beetham that morning but Evensong will be held at 6pm as normal*

## Blue Christmas

A reflective service for those who experience sadness and loss at this time of year

Storth Village Church

Thursday  
18th  
December  
4pm



## REST & RESET

Christian meditation  
A moment to press pause II  
St James Church Arnside  
6:15 - 7:00PM

JAN TUES 6<sup>th</sup> MAR TUES 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY TUES 5<sup>th</sup> JUL TUES 7<sup>th</sup>

ARNSIDE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

2026 Dates

FEB TUES 10<sup>th</sup> APR TUES 14<sup>th</sup> JUN TUES 2<sup>nd</sup>

ARNSIDE CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

HEALTHY HUBS



one tune, it reaches in and Christmas gets its foot in the door. Usually clad in shiny black boots edged in white fur, or is that just me? Moving on, we have been having a lovely time practicing all things Christmas. Nothing like the first burst of Mariah Carey to set the scene.

"THERE HAS TO BE AT LEAST ONE DAY OF THE YEAR TO REMIND US THAT WE'RE HERE FOR SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES OURSELVES."

Eric Sevareid

It is also our gift to others. Whilst shopping at Beetham Nurseries, during their Christmas Fair and, of course, at the big switch on of \*\* BRIGHTENING BEETHAM \*\* 5th of December from 3.45pm. Also the lovely get-togethers with other groups to spread the joy of Christmas. Music is the great uniter. Your little Community Band continues to grow and reshape as bands do. Our doors are open all year and the welcome will always be warm. Music is the best medicine. Tried and true. Perhaps 2026 is the time to dip your spoon in and give it a try.

From everyone in Beetham Community Band we wish you and those you love, the merriest Christmas!

"MUSIC IS PROBABLY THE ONE TRUE MAGIC I HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN MY LIFE. THERE'S NOT SOME TRICK INVOLVED WITH IT. IT'S PURE AND IT'S REAL. IT MOVES, IT HEALS, IT COMMUNICATES AND DOES ALL THESE INCREDIBLE THINGS."

Tess xx  
07725 580095



**National Trust**

**Winter at Sizergh**

21 November – 24 December, 12–8pm

Winter at Sizergh is back – book tickets from July, and look forward to winter wonder for the whole family with an enchanting light trail, Christmas in the house and self-led festive crafts.

Book your tickets, starting from £4

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winter-at-sizergh](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winter-at-sizergh)

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**Kendal Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal**

By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference to a child this Christmas. We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Appeal.

0-3 years: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles

3-5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles

5-9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords

9-12: games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats

13-16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

If you would like to donate please leave your gifts at the back of the church by 6th December. Thank you.

Tess Rowlands

### Beetham Parish Council Meeting Beetham CE School

Monday 1st December at 7pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend  
Previous minutes and details of the Councillors can be found on the website at [www.beetham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beetham-pc.gov.uk)

### "IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!!!!" Noddy Holder

Music is integral to Christmas. For most of us it presses the festive buttons. Others hide under the stairs. But it is full of memories. Even if it's only one tune, it reaches in and Christmas gets its foot in the door. Usually clad in shiny black boots edged in white fur, or is that just me? Moving on, we have been having a lovely time practicing all things Christmas. Nothing like the first burst of Mariah Carey to set the scene.

### ENDMOOR CHOIR present

### A WINTER CONCERT *(including Christmas Carols)*

in aid of **DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

**St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Beetham, LA7 7AL**

**Friday 19th December, 7.30pm**

Refreshments and Raffle  
£10 *(cash only please)*



### Wreath Making Workshop

On Saturday 22nd November, the church was filled with buckets of greenery and Christmas music as people arrived for a Wreath Making Workshop. The afternoon was led by Tess Rowlands, who expertly showed us all how to build up the foliage around the moss-covered ring.



As the wreaths began to take shape there was much excitement and laughter, and admiring of each other's work, as Tess came round to help us complete the greenery part of the wreath. After a welcome break with mulled wine and mince pies, it was back to decorating the wreaths with ribbons and any extras that participants had brought along with them. By the end of the course we were proud to show off our achievements, which are now adorning homes around the parish. A very big thank you to Tess for her skill and humour in teaching us such a wonderful craft, and to all who helped to make the day a success. We all look forward to the same again next year!



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

### *A Season to Sing*

Saturday 6th December

at 7.30pm

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal

Andy Plowman (organ)  
AnnaKate Pearson (harp)

Tickets £15 (under 18s free) via TicketSource  
or members of Beetham Church Choir



# School corner



This month has been full of exciting learning opportunities and special events across the school. Here's a look at what each class has been up to:

Class 3 have started their personal survival skills in swimming this half term. They've been swimming in pyjamas and practising how to 'rescue' each other from the poolside. The children have worked extremely hard and impressed the instructors with their teamwork and care for one another.

Classes 1 and 2 have begun their dance sessions with Lucy Everett, an experienced dance teacher who brings children's ideas to life. They are learning dance techniques and combining them into creative routines that celebrate togetherness, individuality, and group choreography.

In preparation for Remembrance Day, all children learned about the different coloured poppies and their meanings. Together they created red and coloured poppies for display in church. Class 3 also explored texts about the World Wars and wrote emotive poems, some of which were read during our church service.

Class 1 have been studying the history of our village. After exploring the area as it is today last term, they've now looked at old photographs, including some from the school archive—where a few children even spotted their parents! They've also investigated plaques around the school and learned about the toll house's role in the past.

Class 2 have been working on poetry, focusing on describing experiences using senses other than sight. They've gathered ideas for their own seasonal poems and have just begun writing them.

As part of their DT curriculum, Class 3 have been learning cooking techniques and made soup and scones. To give their work real purpose, they hosted a soup morning in partnership with the church. This event was very well received, and the children loved sharing their creations with the community.

The whole school wore odd socks to mark Anti-Bullying Week, celebrating uniqueness and understanding. At the same time, we took part in Interfaith Week, with workshops exploring how different faiths celebrate similar events. Children met members of various religious communities both in person and virtually, helping us all learn the importance of living peacefully together.

We're now preparing for Christmas with carol singing, nativity plays, and our winter fair.



The deadline for Reception admissions for September 2026 is approaching. If you'd like to visit our school and see all we have to offer, please get in touch—we'd love to welcome you!

Best wishes, Abi Johnson



**Soup Lunch**  
The Church was delighted to welcome the children of Class 3 on Tuesday 18th November to host the Soup Lunch. The children had all prepared soup and scones at the school and brought them down to the church to serve to a delighted fully booked church, with proceeds going to the Church Repair Appeal.

The children were wonderfully attentive in taking orders from customers, and passing them on to the serving team. The soup was delivered hot and with confidence, with the children chatting to everyone in the church. All the customers agreed that the scones were delicious and well made by all the children.

The next Church Soup Lunch will be held on Tuesday 20th January,



Could you serve as a...  
**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR**

Why do we need you?

Beetham Church of England Primary School has **two vacancies for Foundation Governors** We hope that it could be you....

What would you do?

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

What is the commitment?

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

Who can do it?

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

How do I find out more?

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

## Beetham WI News

We welcomed guests to our November session in The Wheatsheaf where we had an interesting Talk about mushrooms presented by Helen Speed. She explained her passion and links with Beatrix Potter who was, perhaps, not so well known for her exquisite drawings and observations of fungi. Some of these can be seen at the Armit Museum in Ambleside. We plan to make a visit to see them – and other exhibits - sometime next year.

Some members attended another Pickle Ball session at Burton-in-Kendal later in November where players were guided again by our more experienced members.

We shall be at The Athenaeum for our pre-Christmas lunch where Alison Thompson will be providing us with another delicious meal as we socialise together.

We do not hold an official monthly meeting in January but we will be going out for lunch before the theatre later in the month.

Advance Notice: Our next monthly meeting - when guests are welcome to attend - will be in The Wheatsheaf on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 where we have a Talk entitled "The Laughter Prescription" (am sure that will help cheer us all up during February's gloom)!

In the meantime, we have the Festive Season to look forward to.

Beetham WI's Committee - Jill, Jeanette, Paula & Sue –  
wish all members and readers of The Gateway a  
Very Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year



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## Parish Coffee Morning

### Tuesday 2nd December

10.30am-12pm in church

Please do join us for refreshments and a chat!



All are very welcome, and feel free to bring a friend. There is no charge but any donations will be gratefully received for our repair appeal

### HERON CORN MILL

## FOODIE FRIDAY

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

1.00PM - 3.00PM

FREE ENTRY



A MINI-MARKET WITH A RANGE OF FRESHLY MILLED FLOURS AND OATS, FRESHLY-BAKED BREADS, STALLS SELLING SAVOURIES, CAKES AND QUICHES.

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### HERON CORN MILL

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FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 11:30AM - 1:00PM

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£6.50 ADULTS / CHILDREN FREE  
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## Eversley Ch<sup>oir</sup> Magnificat

Works by Bach, Stanford, Finzi and Goodall plus readings and carols for choir and audience. Conducted by Ian Jones. Accompanied by Ian Pattinson.

St Thomas' Church, Milnthorpe, LA7 7QJ. Thursday 18 December 7pm. Tickets £16, including seasonal refreshments, available from [www.eversleychoir.org](http://www.eversleychoir.org), choir members or on the door. Children and full time students free.



St. Peter's Church, Heversham. Saturday, 6th December, 7.30pm

## Christmas Concert.

Refreshments available, Raffle.



Tickets available from Choir members, on the door or via the QR Code below. £ 10.00



art  
dance  
music  
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**the HERON theatre**

## December What's On



Friday 5th Dec  
The Penguin Lessons (Film)

Sunday 7th Dec  
A Cornucopia for Yuletide (Music)

Friday 12th Dec  
Seasons Greetings (Drama)

Saturday 20th Dec  
Jez Lowe & The Bad Pennies (Saturday Music)

Book tickets online [www.theherontheatre.com](http://www.theherontheatre.com)  
email: [boxoffice@theherontheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@theherontheatre.com) ~ tel: 015395 64283  
Evening performances start at 7.30pm. Sunday music 2.30pm.  
Refreshments available

The Heron Theatre, Stanley Street, Beetham, LA7 7AS



## A Winter's Journey



Musical director Gawain Glenton

St John's Church  
Silverdale LA5 0RH  
7:30pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St Mary's Church  
Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2AX  
3:00pm Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Tickets £15**

[www.levenschoir.net](http://www.levenschoir.net)

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Saturday 13th December  
Singing Starts 7.30pm - Doors Open 7pm

Tickets £10 on the door or from one of the singers.  
Venue - Stricklandgate Methodist Church.  
Windermere Road, Kendal, LA9 4QJ



Scan to view our website

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### The Gateway deadline

Items for the New Year (Jan/Feb) edition should be submitted by **Monday 5th January**. Please email articles to [jenny.marks@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.marks@btinternet.com). View deadlines online at [www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk](http://www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk)

We wish all our advertisers and readers a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

To advertise, space in all ten issues can cost as low as £33.

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Please do be in touch with Andrew you would like to receive the parish email, if there is any support or encouragement he can offer, if you would have any questions about services church life or the Christian faith, or if you would like anyone or anything remembered in prayer.

### Church Websites

For information about our church and parish, What's On, and church videos please visit our website at [www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk](http://www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk). Full colour versions of this and past editions of The Gateway are also available online. If you would like to receive an email copy please contact [jenny.marks@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.marks@btinternet.com)

For more details of the Kent Estuary Mission Community visit the website at [www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com](http://www.kentestuarymissioncommunity.com)



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