



# THE GATEWAY

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS BEETHAM

Welcome to this special pictorial edition of The Gateway, with grateful thanks to Graham Edwards and Andy Macleod for their photographs of such a rip-roaringly successful Beetham Church Harvest Supper!

A scintillating sequence of singular scenarios. A brilliant beneficence of bravado and ebullience. A charismatic concatenation of confabulatory co-ordinated concurrencies.

However one attempts to define it, mere words are insufficient to accurately describe the events at the Heron Corn Mill Barn when Harvest Supper was celebrated one Friday night in October. The now traditional, nay, legendary, format of a delicious meal, courtesy as ever of Alison Thompson, followed by an entertainment supplied by the band of strolling thespians variously known as the Beetham Players, was enough to bring tears to the eyes.

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, the Vaudevillian Extravaganza brought to vivid realisation events from the reign of said monarch, omnipresent and appropriately enthroned, courtesy of one Thomas Crapper Esq. With appearances (in no particular order) from her Prime Minister, William Gladstone (complete with bag); a tribute to the wit of Messrs W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan; Mr Isambard Kingdom Brunel, complete with hat; a cameo performance by a Trident wielding Britannia, girded about with the Union Flag; the renowned Ballet Camembert with Beetham's very own three little maids; a monologue à la Joyce Grenfell; a ventriloquist's dummy (two dummies, come to think of it!); recitals both spoken and sung; Alfredo from Barcelona, with lovely assistant and performing fleas (!!!). Admirably compèred by Monsignor Alan Beaumont and accompanied by Maestro Geoff Field at the keyboard and Ringo Rowlands on the drums, the evening passed with a plenitude of panache and pulchritude (artistic licence!) to send the capacity audience home with a smile on their lips and a song in their heart! (Did I mention the music hall that concluded the evening's entertainment?)

A super evening of good food and fellowship. Roll-on next year!













