Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them...And Jesus came and said... ‘Go make disciples of all nations, and remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time.’ Matthew 28:16

The first week in May the church keeps the Feast day of the Ascension, this is Jesus’ final appearance to the disciples and he wants to leave them with clear instructions of how they should continue the work he has begun. ‘You are to make disciples of all nations, baptise them and teach them’, then he says something very poignant; ‘remember, I am with you always, even to the end of time’, Jesus’ final words of departure as he prepares to leave his closest followers for the very last time.

Now I don’t know about you, but I really struggle with endings, departures, farewells, separations – call them what you like yet they are part and parcel of every single day. Sometimes we choose them, but more often than not, they choose us. Usually they are small and not too significant, but at other times they can be deep and powerful experiences. Partings are any of those times when we find ourselves without someone or something that has given our life meaning, value, stability. When a dimension of our life seems strangely out of kilter, and leaves us with a hollow empty feeling somewhere deep inside.

Yet parting, especially the more intense ones cause us to grow, to mature, to take on responsibilities we probably would never have chosen and to ask the ultimate questions about life. Where am I heading, what are my most cherished values, what do I believe about life and death and God? Parting creates a certain space in us, where we allow ourselves room to look at life in perspective and hopefully, gradually discover answers to some of those life-changing questions.

Those disciples meeting on the hill must have been working through their own sense of grief and loss, exchanging memories of Jesus, who had come back to them in ways surpassing their wildest expectation, but would not come again in the same way. They had been given the opportunity to say goodbye, before they could give themselves to the task that lay ahead. Eleven bereaved and rather bewildered men, left for the regeneration of all humanity. One chapter had to close before the great new chapter could begin. And so it is with our own losses and bereavements, some rite of passage has to be undergone, we have to somehow try and reassemble the broken pieces of our lives, before we too can begin to refocus and move on, though quite often it will be in a different and sometimes unexpected direction.

On Ascension Day I will hold a school assembly which will end with us releasing a large helium balloon into the sky. Now while I’m not too sure about the theology behind this display, I do believe there are good reasons for gazing upwards, for lifting our eyes to the heavens where we are able to see our full potential, and direct our attention to the goal of our journey. To see what can be done, what remains to be done.

Both Matthew and Luke tell the story of the Ascension from a slightly different perspective, Luke ends his gospel by saying: ‘the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God’. Perhaps the reason for the disciples’ joy was because they had come to know, what we can sometimes forget – that Christ’s Ascension did not mean his departure, but rather the assurance of his presence, ‘I am with you always, even to the end of time’. The Christ of the Galilean road returns as the Lord of every road. Now neither life nor death, nor anything can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. He still speaks those words of assurance to us, I am with you always, even to the very end of time.

Every blessing, Revd Linda
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CUMBRIA

THY KINGDOM COME
A Call to Prayer — May 8th to 15th
Please take time to read the enclosed prayer card for national prayer week

Annual Church Meeting Elections
The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings were held on Sunday 24th April in the church. The Vestry Meeting received 3 nominations for churchwardens, and Jenny Marks and Carol John Brown were duly elected for 2016/17. At the APCM reports were given by all the many church groups, showing the huge amount of work and social activity that takes place in the life of our church over the year. Members of the electoral roll were invited to vote for new representatives to join the PCC, and Sheila MacInnes, Helen Montgomery, Jill Smith and Graham Smith were duly elected to stand for the next 3 years. Thanks were given to all those retiring — churchwardens John Lomax and Anne Lofthouse for their tireless work and dedication during their periods of office, PCC Secretary Brian Smalley for his efficient management and Andrew Corrie for his contribution to the church. Thanks were also given to all volunteers who continue to give their time in so many ways.

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Beetham Church Heritage Trust is registered with the donation website at easyfundraising.org.uk/bcht
Help support the Trust by using this website for your online shopping.
It will cost you nothing
Please pick up a leaflet in church
Friend of Beetham Church

EDWARD BEAR CLUB
Our next club will meet in church in June
A fun 30-minute Bible story based activity session for young families and the young at heart

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015395 62412
revl@jandll.plus.com

Local Lay Minister Chris Roberts
015395 63019
LainayAnnHutcheson@aol.com

Church Wardens Anne Lofthouse
John Lomax
01524 923369
sandyandanne@hotmail.com
015395 62648
j.d.lomax@btinternet.com

PCC Secretary Brian Smalley
015395 62559
015395 64778
b.smalley@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer Graham Smith
015395 62648
dianelomaxa@btinternet.com

Verger Val Holden
015395 63569
info@creativeseafoods.co.uk

Church Flowers Dianne Lomax
015395 62559
john.dugdale@btinternet.com

The Bell of Beetham Jenny Marks
015395 62648
jenny.marks@btinternet.com

Church Electoral Roll
John Dugdale
015395 62648
jenny.dugdale16@btinternet.com

Beetham C of E School
Wendy Nicholas
015395 62559
head@beetham.cumbria.sch.uk

“Beetham Gateway” ~ Editor John Lomax
015395 62648
gatewayads@btinternet.com

Church services at Beetham in May

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st May</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Parish Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th of Easter</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 4th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5th May</td>
<td>1.15pm</td>
<td>School Ascension Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th May</td>
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<td>School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th May</td>
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<td>Sunday after Ascension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 11th May</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13th May</td>
<td>2.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th May</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Parish Eucharist</td>
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<td>16th May</td>
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<td>Weds 18th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd May</td>
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<td>Trinity Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 25th May</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 27th May</td>
<td>2.45pm</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th May</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Parish Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st after Trinity</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please check Church noticeboards or beethamchurchsadallangs.co.uk for any changes

Wedding
The marriage of
Howard Kinney & Victoria Smith
took place on Saturday 9th April
We wish the happy couple Faith, Hope & Love in their future lives together

Baptism
Ava Dylan Hodgson, daughter of Deke and Louise,
was baptised on Sunday 3rd April.
We welcome her into Beetham Church

Funerals
Our prayers and condolences are with the families of:
- Honor Dugdale, 15th April
- Dorothy Birkett, 20th April
- Rosemary Tryon-Wilson, 28th April
**Heritage Evening**
The Friends of Beetham Church organised a social evening in the church on Friday 1st April. The theme was our local Heritage, and the audience was taken back in time to learn more about what the historical maps, documents and markings in the church could tell us about our village past.

A talk was given by ‘Betty Dowker’, who lived in one of the Haverback Township cottages adjacent to the church back in 1851. Life in the village was very different at that time with only 28 dwellings, occupied by 122 people. Ten recorded 19th century homes and buildings no longer exist, but in the same area we now have 70 properties and still only 132 occupants - food for thought!

This was followed by a talk by Brian Smalley on the masons marks in the church. We were shown the different marks, mainly carved into the stone pillars, and the fascinating history of how these marks developed and provided a pattern across different churches in the region.

With many thanks to all who helped to organise the event, prepare the ploughman’s suppers, and serve the drinks. It was an enjoyable evening and opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new faces, and thanks to everyone’s generosity over £330 was raised for the church. Please join us for our Flower Festival, May 28-30th.

**Visitors to the Church**
Over the past few weeks we have had a number of extra visitors to the church. On Tuesday 12th April we were delighted to welcome a party of over 40 schoolchildren from Year 4 at Cartonorth North Road Primary School. They were tasked with finding out more about the Norman features as part of their history study, and they were also given the church window quiz to complete, with the groups led by Sue Smalley, Brian Smalley, and Jenny Marks vying to be the first to finish. The teachers gave lovely feedback, saying how much the children had enjoyed their visit and the opportunity for interactive learning.

On Wednesday 27th April, a party of 40 walkers from Parkside in Arnside came to the church for coffee and to have a look around the church. Parkside walking groups are regular visitors to St Michael’s, and the tradition of entertaining them was started several years ago by Sandy Lothhouse. With many thanks to Anne Lothhouse for welcoming the group and to Julie Clarke and her willing band of volunteers for providing the coffee and delicious cakes as always.

**Order of St Lazarus Fighting the Disease of Leprosy**
**Saturday June 4th at 7pm in Beetham Church**

**Music for a Summer Evening**
**A Garland of Songs**
with a few pieces from the stage and screen given by the adjudant Charles Edmondson accompanied by Avelina Wright (soprano)

Tickets £8, to include a glass of wine, available from 015395 64320 or 015395 62188

All proceeds to St Lazarus and Manna House

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**Dallam Tower Open Garden**
**by kind invitation of Susie & Rupert Villiers-Smith**

**Sunday Afternoon 8th May**

**Dallam Tower Open Garden**
by kind invitation of Susie & Rupert Villiers-Smith

**Refreshments Church Plant Stall**

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**CHIMES**

**Celebrating the 90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth**

Beetham Church marked the occasion of the Queen’s 90th birthday on Thursday 21st April with a beautiful red, white and blue floral arrangement by Dianne Lomax. Two new flags have recently been purchased for the church - with grateful thanks to two anonymous donors from the congregation - and the new Union Jack was flown for the first time, in the sunshine. In the evening the bellringers rang 90 changes of ‘Queens’, joining a worldwide ring in celebration of the event.

On St George’s Day on April 23rd the flag was changed to the new St George flag, and the bellringers again joined the nationwide ‘Ring for England’ in towers across the country at noon. Thank you to everyone that took part in the celebrations.

**Dedication of memorial plaque to Dr Donald Watson**
The memorial plaque to Donald Watson was dedicated and blessed during the morning Parish Eucharist on Sunday 17th April. The service was led by former Archdeacon George Howe, with a moving tribute by the Very Reverend Ian Corbett.

Friends and colleagues representing Donald’s long service to the church, education, and his strong support for the Heron Theatre joined the congregation in celebrating his life. After the service everyone was invited to indulge in Donald’s favourite bubbly drink and M&S canapes, and to recall endless stories about the many things that he did for Beetham church and community.

**To the memory of Donald W.T. Watson**
Beloved husband of the late Audrey Smith
Beloved father of Philip and the late Mary
Beloved grandfather of Arlene, Peter and Leanne
Beloved uncle to Sarah, James and Peter
Departed this life 2011

The brass plaque has been mounted on the inside of the carved aumbry door in the sanctuary, which Donald had presented to the church.

**April Work Party Thank You**

On Wednesday 6th April an intrepid group of volunteers braved the elements for an outdoor work party in the churchyard and the new burial ground. Laurels and other dense shrubs at the entrance to the burial ground were cut down in the first phase of the removal of the unsafe lychgate, and improvement to the entrance. We apologise for any inconvenience whilst this work is in progress but it is hoped that the work will enhance the tranquillity and tidiness of the burial ground for the future.

In the old churchyard, the rose pergola was started to be weeded and pruned, and thanks also go to all the volunteers who have been back since to complete this work.

The churchyard grass has been cut, with thanks to Dallam Tower, and although the daffodils have ended for this year there is still a lovely display of bluebells and fritillaries in the wildflower area behind the tower.

The work party volunteers were soaked by the end of the morning, but the bacon buns provided by Anne Lothhouse made up for it—we look forward to the same next time please Anne!
School Corner

After a super Easter holiday we have returned to school for a busy half term, hopefully with lots of good weather.

For the last 2 weeks we have been taking part in the ‘Big Pedal’, a national competition to encourage children to scoot or cycle to school. This has many benefits in terms of fitness and health and is a fun way to begin the day. As I write we are currently leading the competition for the North West and are in 7th place in the whole of the UK. This is a fantastic achievement for our school and we are hoping that we will be prize winners by the end of the competition.

Our Reception children enjoyed a lovely, sunny visit to Growing Well at Low Sizergh Barn. Their session began by looking at the 5 ways to well being, this was followed by a sensory tasting and smelling session using flowers and salad leaves grown at the farm. The children sowed their own lettuce and broad bean seeds which they were able to take home.

The children were thrilled to be able to collect eggs from the hen huts, see the orphan lambs and also the cows and calves. They also visited the milking parlour, looked at the machinery and found out where their milk comes from.

This was a wonderful learning opportunity for such young children to be able to find out more about where their food comes from and to experience this at a local farm. We are very lucky that Growing Well has such a superb education programme that we can access.

Our children in KS2 are now looking forward to their residential visits; Yr 3 & 4 are going to stay at Arnside Youth Hostel and early in June Yr 5 & 6 are visiting London. We are of course planning our Sport’s Day, end of term performance and Leaver’s Service, so another busy term ahead!

We would like to invite you to join us for our Ascension Day service on Thursday 5th May and will put dates of other forthcoming events in next month’s Gateway.

Best wishes
Wendy Nicholas
Beetham & Beyond

The Beetham Ringers enjoyed their first 'tower grab' trip on Wednesday 27th April. The first ring was at St Cuthbert’s Church Lytham, which has 8 bells. Then on to St John’s Church in Lytham, and up a spiral staircase to a small ringing chamber and a ring of 6 bells of similar weight to the Beetham bells. After an excellent pub lunch, the final tower of the day was St Helen’s Church in Churchtown, a heavier ground floor ring of 6 bells and larger ringing chamber than Beetham.

We also took time to look round each of the lovely churches, learning about their history, and getting a few ideas for Beetham too. Many thanks to Brian Smalley for organising such a successful day and we look forward to the next one!

Roving Ringers

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

is once again hosting a food and local produce festival to showcase the fantastic range of products created here

Events run from 27 May - 12 June

including rambles, open afternoons and markets

Landscape Trust, Arnside & Silverdale AONB

896 - 2016 Thirty Year Anniversary

A Taste of the Landscape

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is once again hosting a food and local produce festival to showcase the fantastic range of products created here

The full programme is available on our website and in local shops and visitor information centres

www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk/news

What’s On Guide

Pop in for Coffee & Cake!

Wednesday 4th May
10.15 to 11.30am

Beetham Village

Coffee Morning

in the church

There is no charge and all are welcome

the HERON theatre

Founded in 1948 this 80 seat theatre is located in a former 18th century school in Beetham, offering a varied programme of theatre, music and film

With 3 members stepping down this year, the Theatre is looking to elect additional Management Committee members, including a Chairman and Minute Secretary. If you are interested in continuing to support and develop this thriving theatre in one of these roles - or in any other voluntary capacity - please email info@herontheatre.com or contact 01524 762060 for more information

www.theherontheatre.com

Westmorland Orchestra

Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm
Lakes Leisure Kendal

Humperdinck ~ Overture Hansel and Gretel
Lalo ~ Cello Concerto (Lucy Arch, Cello)
Gershwin ~ An American in Paris
Selection of marches, polkas & waltzes

Tickets £12, contact 01524 412837
www.westmorlandorchestra.org.uk

Country Fest 2016

A Feast For All Senses For Country Lovers
Westmorland County Showground, Crooklands
4th June 10am-5pm & 5th June 10am-4pm

A real taste of the countryside, celebrating the quality and diversity of the superb independent food and drink producers and suppliers that abound in Cumbria and the North West

Tickets on day £8.50 adult, £2 child, £18 family
Advance tickets £7 adult, £1.50 child, £15 family
www.westmorlandshow.co.uk/country_fest.html

Heron Corn Mill

Friday 13th May

Join us as we welcome amateur astronomer and author Stuart Atkinson to Heron Corn Mill for an evening of stargazing. Stuart will present an illustrated talk as part of his fascinating astronomy and outreach project, before venturing outside (weather permitting) for some serious stargazing. The evening will be concluded with a pie and pea supper and a good old fashioned Q and A session. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for children.

You can book your place by emailing info@heronmill.org or giving us a call on 01535 64271

Heron Corn Mill, Mill Lane, Beetham, 01535 64271
info@heronmill.org - www.heronmill.org

St Mary's Church Crosthwaite

Saturday 14th May
at 7pm

Blackburn Salvation Army Band

Amabile Girls’ Choir

In aid of the Cumbria Community Foundation
Flood Recovery Appeal
Tickets £8
Call 01535 65599

Silverdale & Arnside Art and Craft Trail

Friday 24 June 1pm—8pm
Saturday 25 June 10.30am-5.30pm
Sunday 26 June 10.30am-5.30pm

www.silverdalearttrail.co.uk
Morsheda's story

“I feel very scared of the river. When I look at it I keep thinking ‘it is coming’

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June edition of The Gateway
The Gateway always welcomes news and other items of interest to our readership.
The deadline for the next edition is

Wednesday 25th May

Please send contributions to the editor, Jenny Marks
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SOUTH LAKELAND AGE UK LUNCH CLUBS
(12 for 12.30pm)
Arnside Lunch Club 1st Friday of month at The Albion, and Sandside Lunch Club 3rd Wednesday of month at The Ship, South Lakeland Marland, 01524 761566.
Storth Club 2nd Thursday of month at The Kingfisher, Norah Padgett 015395 62887

Helpline: 01539 728180; www.ageuk.org.uk/southlakeland