



The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham

part of The Kent Estuary Mission Community in The Diocese of Carlisle

www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk

Dear friends,

*'O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious
and his mercy endureth for ever.'*

Psalm 136.1

As we journey through these autumnal weeks, this comes with prayerful greetings and with gratitude for the generous ways in which you support the ministry, mission, work and witness of St Michael and All Angels. It is both valued and appreciated.

A year ago we wrote, in what has become our annual stewardship letter, to let you know the challenges that the church building was facing as a result of the pressing need to replace our ageing and increasingly redundant boilers. Twelve months later, it is exceptionally encouraging to report that thanks to your help, and financial support, our new boilers have now been successfully installed and commissioned. In completing this important project, so necessary for maintaining the fabric of our ancient and historic building, it is good to report that we have been aided enormously by a sizeable donation from the Beetham Church Heritage Trust (a charity that exists solely to raise and give money for the benefit of preserving St Michael and All Angels). The result of all this is that we can now look ahead to the colder weather assured that the church (both people and building) will be able to be kept warm; much to our collective relief.

In looking ahead, we trust it important and timely to let you know of other developments affecting the life (and finances) of St Michael and All Angels, which we feel important to share - as we give thanks for God's faithfulness in the past and, with confidence in his guiding, now look to the future.

Firstly, earlier in the year the Parochial Church Council reflected on the invitation by the Diocese to increase our 'ministry offer' (the amount we seek to contribute to the Diocese to help fund the cost of ministry) by 3%. Whereas in recent years, the PCC has only incrementally increased our offer due to other financial pressures, it was felt prudent and right to seek to try for 2026 to increase our contribution. In doing so we recognise that our relationship with the Diocese is of intrinsic importance in shaping what it means for us, alongside our partner churches in the Kent Estuary, to be part of God's church here in Cumbria. We want to do all that we can to ensure ministry provision in Beetham and across the Mission Community as we look to the months and years ahead.

Secondly, whilst acknowledging the important milestone of being able to update our boilers in church, this rather interrupted the plans that were being formulated in seeking to fund the repair and restoration of other aspects of the fabric of St Michael and All Angels as detailed in our last Quinquennial Inspection (the five yearly comprehensive evaluation of the building by our church conservation architect) which was undertaken in 2023. Whilst the Quinquennial covers a range of works, both large and small, we know the most significant expenditure will relate to the pressing need to consolidate and repoint the parapets along the edge of the roof; a project which we cannot ignore. Although we are still awaiting revised figures for the total cost of these works, we know that it will be a sizeable amount - which will undoubtedly require the assistance of grant funding (we trust and pray) to enable us to complete. This is something that the PCC and, we hope, the Beetham Church Heritage Trust will be turning their attention to in due course, with the support of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches.

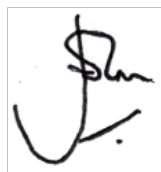
As a result of these two important developments, both so important in sustaining the life and witness of St Michael and All Angels, the reality is that - as a church - we need to (once again) work to increase our financial resources. Asking for this, as you'll hopefully appreciate, is never easy, but whilst financial pressures continue to be experienced widely, it is the case that state pensions and many index-linked payments have increased this year by more than 3%.

It is then with all this in mind that we write to you with an invitation for you to consider, review and hopefully be able to increase your regular giving; fully understanding that not everyone will be in a position to do this.

We do this in the weeks following the celebrations of Michaelmas and Harvest; particular times in the year where we recognise the giftedness of our lives as both a church and as individuals, remembering that it is from the Lord that every good and perfect gift comes. It is in response to the gifts we receive from God that all of us, albeit in many diverse ways, are called to live lives of generous giving - of our time, of our skills, of our attention and of our money.

In reading this letter we offer you our gratitude for your part, whatever that may look like, in our shared life together as a church community. Praying that we may all continue to know the Lord's blessing, encouragement and goodness as we look to the future.

Yours,



The Reverend Andrew Bryan Norman | Priest-in-Charge
The Parsonage, Stanley Street, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7AS
e-mail: revdabn@gmail.com | telephone: (015395) 62355

John Lomax | PCC Treasurer
Long Orchard, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7AL
e-mail: j.d.lomax@btinternet.com | telephone: (015395) 62648