

St Bees Priory Church

Vicar - Rev Lars Nowen

Tel. (01946) 822279

Assistant Priest - Rev David Cox (Tel. 821601)

Lay Readers: Tim Taylor (Tel. 822255)
Chris & Charm Robson (Tel. 822468)
Lois Howard (Tel. 811446)

Churchwardens - (see inside front cover)

Services

Sundays

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 5th - 1662)
10.30 a.m. Family Service
6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer
7.30 p.m. Survival to Revival

See Calendar for details of Family Services and Evening Prayer

Weekdays

Communion on Saints Days

N.B. This pattern may vary at particular seasons of the year. See magazine calendar.
The sacrament of baptism is administered at the main service and must be arranged well in advance with the Vicar..

Priory Web Site - www.stbeespriory.org.uk

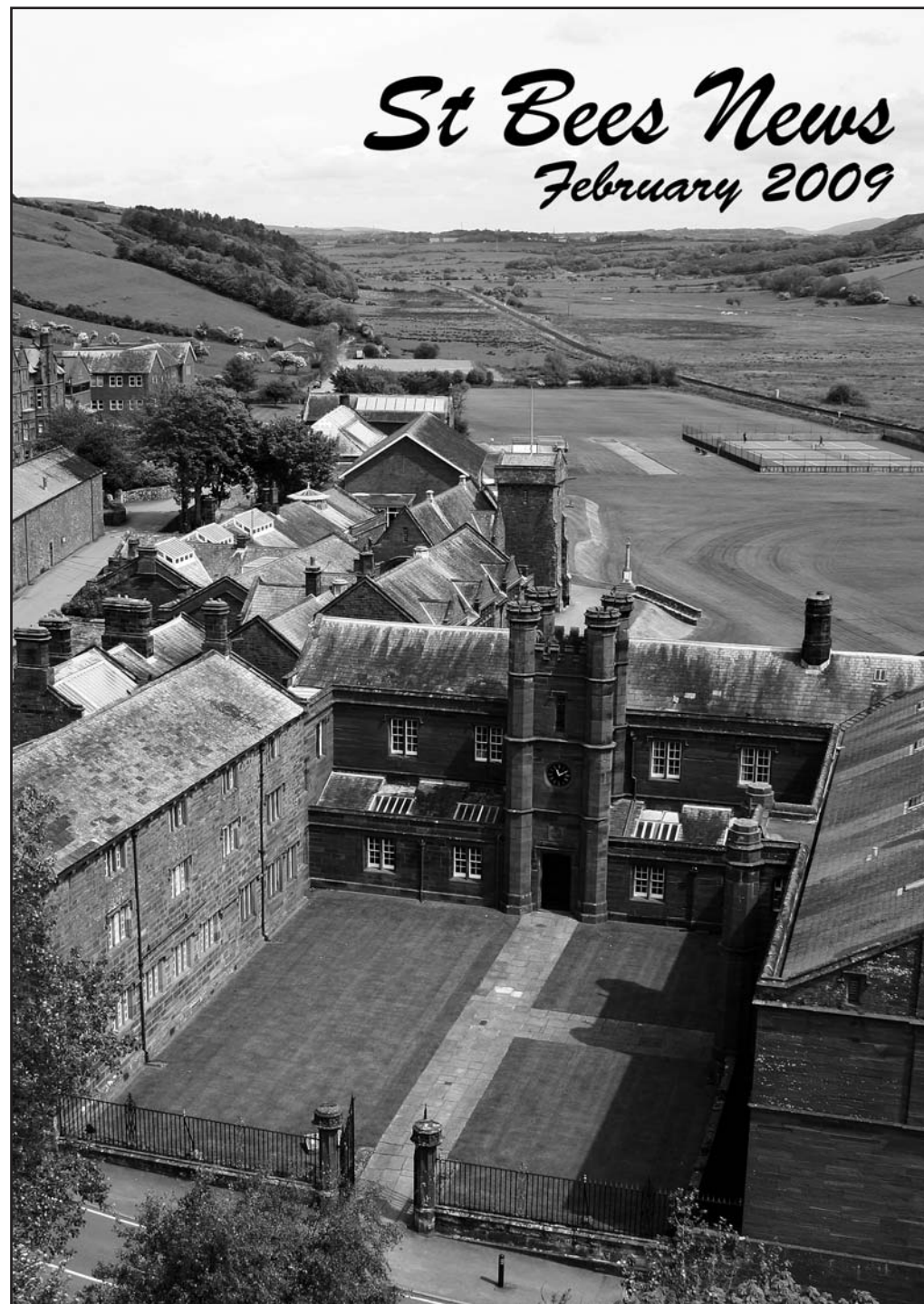
This magazine is free but production costs are about 30p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay for about 50% of the costs. However this leaves a substantial sum to be paid for by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer* or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.

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* - Treasurer - Dr G Burgess, 7 Abbey Farm, St Bees, CA27 0DY.

DTP & Final Editing - Ian McAndrew

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St Bees Parish ABC

Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - M Westhead (Tel. 822674).	Funeral Director	in the Village is Malcolm Reid (Tel. 822217).
Arts Society	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at the St Bees Management Centre at 8.00 p.m. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Alan Hawkins (822330)	Garden Society	Details from Neil Todd, Gosforth (Tel. 019467 25519). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.
Bellringing	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 31 Main Street. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 p.m. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m. and Evensong by arrangement.	Guides	meet in New College Hall on Mondays from 6.45 - 8.30 p.m. For further details please contact Lucy Scott (Tel. 821755).
Bridge Club	meets on Tuesday at 6.45 for 7.00 p.m. & Friday afternoons at 1.45 for 2.00 p.m. in Bigrigg Hall. Mike Brewer (Tel 019467 25835).	Internet Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
Brownies	meet in New College Hall on Tuesday evenings. Details from Sarah George: 822779; Vicki Neale: 824100; Clare Shaw: 590337.	Library	is at the Village School (Tel. 822219), Tuesdays from 1.30 - 6.00 p.m. & Fridays from 1.30 to 4.00 p.m.
Beavers	for boys aged 6 - 8 meet on Thursdays, 5.30 - 6.30 p.m. in the Youth Centre. Details from Dick Beddows (Tel. 823288).	Local History	Research on the Priory and the village continues. Details from History Group (Ian McAndrew - Tel. 822326 or Chris Robson Tel. 822468).
Cubs & Scouts	Cubs , for boys aged 8 - 10, meet on Thursdays, 6.45 - 8.15 p.m. in the Youth Centre. Details from Ian Howard (Tel. 823626). Scouts meet on Mondays in the Youth Centre. Details from Mike Greene, Fairladies, 102 Main Street (824302).	Methodist Church	Sunday Service & Sunday School is at 11.00 a.m. (9.45 on the first Sunday of the month. Family Service on the second Sunday.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.45 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Mrs M Brannon Tel. 822541.
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. They are John Haile (Tel.822463), John Kennedy (Tel. 822297), Rosalie McAndrew (Tel.822326), & Graham Brightman (Tel. 822652).	Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Cumberland Morris Men	meet on alternate Thursdays in Hodgett's Club. Contact Neil Bettinson, 22 Main Street, for details of these and of the Traditional Mummers.	Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections for 20 members are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - H Taylor, Tel. 822255
Electoral Roll	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church, to be returned to the Priory.	Pre-School Playgroup	meets in Youth Centre five mornings a week from 9.00 - 11.30 a.m. Contact Pam Glover at Pre-School, 823880.
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Dr Geoff Burgess, 7 Abbey Farm, St Bees, Tel. 824416, who will gladly explain our Christian Giving system.	Prayer Group	meets on Thursdays from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.
Football Association	Contacts - Seniors Dale Jackson 823631 & Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.	Priory Fellowship	meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8.00 p.m. in New College Hall. Details from Gill Richardson, 822394.
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk	Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Hugh Turpin (Tel. 822611).
Friends of the Priory	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact Philip Barratt or Tom Rice, Treasurer, Green Ghyll, Greendykes, Egremont.	Sunday School	for ages 3 - 11 meets during Morning Service New College Hall, at 10.30 a.m. Contact - Rosalie McAndrew (822326).
		Toddler Group	meets every Thursday, in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in Adams Recreation Centre. Details from Marisa Rossi (Tel. 822169).
		Village School Association	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - Audrey Agnew (via School - Tel. 822392).
		Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club (Tel. 823254). For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
		Village in Bloom	Details from Eileen B Todd, Chairman, 14 Main Street. St.Bees (Tel 822522).

Calendar for February

1	Epiphany 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
		6.00 p.m.	Evensong
2	Monday	7.30 p.m.	PCC Meeting - NCH
3	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	Christian Courses - Great Christians Vicarage
		7.30 p.m.	Christian Courses, Life Worth Living, 5 Main St
7	Saturday		Bell Ringing Training Day
8	3 Sunday before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Prayer
		3.00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service for Revd Ian Harland at Carlisle Cathedral
		6.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
15	2 Sunday before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
		6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
16	Monday	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
17	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	Priory Fellowship NCH
22	Sunday before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
		6.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
25	Ash Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		12.00 noon	St Bees School Lent Service
		7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ashes

March

3	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	History Group AGM & Meeting, Fernbank
4	Wednesday	7.00 p.m.	Friends of the Priory Committee, NCH
NB - Survival to Revival Service"			
	Sundays in term Time	7.30 p.m.	Lady Chapel

Midweek Holy Communion service 9.30 every Wednesday in Lent followed by Bible study - seven weeks in total - from 10.15 to 11.30 am.

St Bees News

February 2009

Not too long ago Claire and I borrowed some pigs to try and help us clear the back garden. This involved pounding some posts down and fencing an area for the pigs to roam in. The friend who lent us the pigs was wielding the manual post-pounder when, in his enthusiasm, he hit himself in the mouth with it and chipped a tooth. Being a menace to himself it was hard to avoid laughing.

He left the post-pounder with me. Later I had to extend the fencing. I grabbed the post-pounder and went at it. I remembered my friend's incident and was confident that I wouldn't hurt myself in the same way. I was going to be attentive. It didn't take long before I was settling into a routine of post-pounding when, in my enthusiasm, I elevated the pounder beyond the post and as I pulled down on it it caught the edge of the post. The pounder came down and caught me in the forehead leaving me literally stunned for a moment. Being fairly accustomed to concussions I did what every normal person does afterwards and I tried to recite my address.. After a few tries I got my address right and regained my balance and vision.

Claire was showing the pigs to a friend while this happened and in a moment she saw that something big and heavy had in fact left a clear swollen mark on my forehead. Even now, if you can avoid distraction by the reflection off my head, the dent is apparent. It will probably be apparent to discerning eyes for the rest of my life. So much for my self-confident attentiveness...

Exercising attentiveness is one of the most important human efforts. It strengthens relationships, it is a key aspect of learning, it ensures that whatever it is we are working at we do it to the highest standard we are able. Sometimes attentiveness is a life or death matter, in the case of complex surgery or piloting a passenger plane. We can, of course, show a great deal of attentiveness to things that don't really matter (*enter video games and reality TV stage right*). And less to the things that matter more (*enter meaningful conversation with spouse or friends stage left*). But of all things that we are to be attentive to, the most important thing is that which provides us with our most basic health in being, namely, attentiveness to our Maker, to God.

An essential aspect of being a creature, which we all are, is that it implies an orientation towards a Creator. The Bible is full of exhortations to be attentive to the things that matter most, like the wisdom that comes from obeying God's commands. Proverbs 2 says, 'My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.'

Jesus, the embodiment of the wisdom of God, often appealed to people listen and pay attention. He came in order that our bond with God could be restored, and as a result we could fulfil our purpose as creatures. He came in order that we could be able to be attentive to that which makes us most joyful, namely God himself. Without Jesus' life and ministry there would be no hope of finding this purpose, but instead we would remain stuck in a tragic cycle of alienation from our God.

December Editor

The **March 2009** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Philip Barratt, 16 Finkle Street, St Bees** who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Sunday 8 February** please.

E-mail philip.j.barratt@btinternet.com

Priory News

Christingle and Nativity Play by the Sunday School and friends was a delightful celebration, which raised £216 for the Children's Society Christmas Appeal. Special thanks to all involved in the occasion: the children and their parents, the orchestra conducted by Frank Bowler, with Helen Bushby at the piano, the Christingle makers and of course the congregation. This year's casting was unusual, involving three regal lady Magi, plus a dramatic female King Herod (who also stood in as Joseph after he had sadly succumbed to illness!). Thank you actors for your versatility.



Ladies Priory Fellowship will meet in New College Hall on Tuesday 17th February at 7.30 p.m. for a Lenten talk by Chris Robson. All are welcome.

Carol Singers raised the fantastic sum of £442 from the two evenings of carolling around the village (£223 from the South and £219 from the North). A further sum of £86 was added from two evenings singing in the Queens and the Oddfellows and a further donation, the final total reaching £528, to be shared between Shelter for the Homeless and the Children's Society. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. Special thanks to our hosts, George & Sue Heslop on Fairladies and Alan & Sandee Hawkins on Beach Road for the delicious festive fare!

Vicar's Letter (Continued)

It is far too easy to slip into a routine and end up neglecting the things which matter most. This will have consequences, as when our neglect of God's will results in something concussing our hearts. But even those negative consequences, even those which may leave us bearing their mark for life, can ultimately be OK if they make us aware of our need for God's grace and help us nurture the habit of attentiveness to God's work and voice.

Lars Nowen

Lenten Mid-week Communion will start on Ash Wednesday February 15th at 9.30 a.m. in the Lady Chapel. There will also be Holy Communion at 7.30 p.m. See Calendar for Lent meetings.

South American Missionary Society
A big thank you to all SAMS supporters. The box collection raised £57.03. New boxes are available. Apologies for the long delay, but communications have been difficult. There is a move for SAMS to amalgamate with CMS, but this is to be put to the vote in January, 2009. The issue is explained in SHARE, copy in church.

Thank you sincerely to everyone for their generous Christmas gifts under the Priory Christmas Tree. All our senior citizens and former St Beghians in local homes were delighted.

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Jean Carr of Manorstead, Crosshill

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jean Carr of Crosshill who died recently, after illness bravely borne. Jean was known for her artistic talents: tending her beautiful patio garden (seen only during Village in Bloom open days); also restoring, with her late husband Noel, their Tudor cottage; and recently painting. Villagers will remember her exercising her beloved Shih-tzu dogs which she exhibited at Crufts for several years.

She was a faithful worshipper at Priory Evensong and a keen member of Whitehaven Soroptimists. Jean was a cheerful and generous friend and will be greatly missed.

St Bees Parish Council News

Proposed change to speed limit - As you may have seen in the local press, Cumbria County Council is considering a proposal to remove the 20mph limit in the village and revert to a 30mph limit. The Parish Council fought hard for several years to get a 20mph zone and is strenuously opposing the change. The matter will be discussed at the meeting of the County Council Local Committee early in February

Fleatham House - The Parish Council noted with regret the Planning Inspectorate's decision to uphold the planning appeal and allow the development of three detached dwellings in the grounds of Fleatham House. The Parish Council and a number of local residents had expressed concern about the impact on the trees and the Planning Inspector has addressed some of these concerns in imposing conditions on the planning consent.

Play Area - The Parish Council is undertaking some improvement work on the play area adjacent to the village school. New swings have been ordered and will be in place shortly with some repair work also being done to the safety surface. The Village School children have agreed to adopt the planters so the area should have a new look this spring.

Household Refuse Collection Changes

In February, important changes are being made to refuse collection services to residents who are still on weekly black bag collections. From 5 February, household waste will only be collected when it is set out in official blue sacks

displaying the Copeland Borough Council name.

This change is to support the targets all Councils have to reduce the amount of rubbish being sent to landfill. They are intended to encourage everyone to reduce their rubbish and recycle more. Details of recycling sites and the kerb-side recycling service are detailed in the letter which households should have received.

Households will be provided with a maximum of two sacks per week. In the same way we provide larger bins for those on the bin service. If you have a large family and recycle already you can apply for extra sacks by completing a questionnaire.

Please ring 0845 054 8600 for a copy of the form.

Waste must only be presented for collection in the official blue sacks and must be left at the edge of your own property for collection. Please do not leave your bags in any other location as this can be regarded as fly tipping. **Domestic waste in other sacks and any other side waste will not be collected.**

Bulky Collections - Removal of bulky collections can be arranged, though some items may incur a collection charge. These can be arranged in person at The Copeland Centre, Catherine Street, Whitehaven; by post, enclosing a cheque for the required amount once you know the cost, or by telephone, using a debit/credit card.

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Love and prayers

Our love & prayers for health & strength go out to all who are ill at home or in hospital. We remember especially those recuperating from operations - Margaret Atkinson.

We remember also Audrey & Peter Broughton, Audrey Reeve, Olaug Park, Mabel Grisdale, & Margaret Woffinden (Anne Hope's sister).

May God bless you all.



Friends of the Priory

Once again the Christmas concert with the Priory Singers attracted a large audience and was a great success. Before the event we feared that not being able to use Old College Hall might detract from the fun. How wrong we were! The audience was so large that had we been in Old College Hall not everyone would have squeezed in let alone have obtained a seat. The concert was the now traditional mix of choir carols, readings and audience participation. The mulled wine was as good as ever and of course there was the usual interruption by St Bees Mummers - don't we all love them?! Thank you to all who made the evening possible: The Priory Singers, The Friends' Committee and The Mummers. Most of all thank you to you the audience for coming and making the evening such a success.

Advance Notices

Egremont Town Band will give a concert in the Priory at 7.30 p.m. Friday 20 March.

Dr Ian Hill has agreed to give a talk, again date to be arranged.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends will be held on 20 May at 7.00pm in New College Hall.

Sadly we are not able to have a Shrove Tuesday party and fun run this year and are sorry for any disappointment this may cause.

Obituary - Elizabeth Lowrey (nee Cottam) 1913 -2008.

Elizabeth Lowrey was a remarkable lady devoted to family, farming, the Priory Church and many local organisations. She was always working for the benefit of others and enjoying life to the full.

Her farming diaries, in beautiful script, reveal a forgotten age - walking to school several miles and in clogs; moving farm, livestock, farm vehicles and all from Mosser Mains to Rottington Hall - a major undertaking. All the sheep and cattle were walked to Cockermouth station and then by train to St Bees, while the horses and carts were walked all the way!

She married Jack Lowrey and set up house at Townhead Farm, where the three boys were born. She was noted for her cookery, her festive parties, her baking for church and W. I. functions and for fund raising at coffee mornings. She helped raise funds for the new Priory carpet. She was a member of St Bees W.I., the Inner Wheel, the Whitehaven Flower Arranging Society and Farmers' Clubs.

She was always very fit and energetic -- playing badminton well into her 80s (and never allowing the family to win!).

She was renowned not only for her arts and crafts, but also for her recipes - her delicious beetroot jelly for Harvest Supper and her Turkish Delight for Christmas presents.

Elizabeth enhanced the lives of all those she knew and will be remembered for her generosity and dedication.

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Flower Rota - February

February 1	Mrs I Palmer
February 8	Mrs J Hewertson
February 15	Mrs M Westhead
February 22	Mrs N Turner
February 25	Ash Wednesday

Church Bulletins

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



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From the Registers

Holy Baptism

15 November	Christopher Alexander Aikman	18 Main Street
28 December	Freya Louise Barnett	Moor Row
28 December	Ava-Mae Jones	76 Main Street

Christian Burial

8 December	Elizabeth Lowrey	Bradbury House, Gosforth. Formerly of Howgate and Sandwith Preston
8 December	Philip Eyre	
20 December	Isabella Jean Carr	Manorstead, Crosshill

Letter from Michelle Proctor

(Mukinge Hospital, PO Box 120092,
Kasempa, Zambia. Email
michelleproctor26@gmail.com)

Dear Friends,

I am still enjoying my work on the children's ward and I could fill pages with stories of the children but will limit it to one. Bupe (meaning Gift) was born 13 weeks early weighing only 800gm and his chances of survival here with no neonatal intensive care were not good. However against all the odds he made it and is now at home having been discharged around about when he should have been born. The last time I saw him he weighed 3kg. We all called him the miracle baby! There have been many children in and out of the ward this year, not all with such a happy ending to their story, and on the bad days when we can't help a child who has leukemia or when a child dies, I remember Bupe and feel encouraged to go on.

My other major role is coordinating and taking care of the short term missionaries that come to Mukinge, this involves communicating with them before they arrive, organizing their accommodation and then making sure they get orientated to life here. This year so far we have had 1 medical student, 6 doctors, 1 nurse, a biomedical engineer and 2 people to help at the academy school. Between them they come from 6 different countries. In this job I get asked many and varied questions - where to buy things, where to go for a holiday, how to cook food here, how to iron underpants so you don't get putzi fly bites. And even help my bathroom is flooding to help the cat is stuck up a tree. From can I borrow your house for a party to can I borrow your dog. There is never a dull moment with this role and it is fun to

make friends from all over the world but the goodbyes are hard.

This year I have started to lead a student nurse bible class. I have 15 female students in my class and they call me their "Bible Mum". The students are a big part of the life here at Mukinge. We get an intake of around 40 students every year in July and they do a 2 year course to qualify as an Enrolled nurse. As well as leading the Bible class I get to work with them on the ward and supervise them as they learn practical nursing cares. Our training School had a 100% pass rate this year in the national exams and 16 of the new graduates are now working here

Outside of the hospital I am involved with an orphanage and on the board of a preschool. My friend Pamu is building Mulunda Miaka Orphanage and this year we have seen good progress. One of the buildings now has a roof on and recently we had a bore hole sunk so we now have a safe water supply. Progress is slow by western standards but answers to prayers and seeing needs being met have been an encouraging experience for me. Bright Stars School is owned and run by more Zambian friends Nesi and Lister. I have enjoyed being on the board and seeing the school grow from an idea to a fully functioning school. Next year we are hoping to build our own building so we don't have to rent and to open up a grade 1 class.

I hope this gives you some idea of what I have been up to this year. Next year it is time for me to do Home Assignment again. I will be in the UK from mid March to mid August and looking forward to seeing many of you.

Michelle

Grassroots

Sincere thanks to individuals, families societies and businesses in the village who sent messages and donations for the Christmas Greetings Pages in the Parish Magazine. The final total raised was £428.50 - £331.75 for the Priory and £96.75 for the Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child). Thank you all for your support and generosity.

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly. Special thanks to the St Bees School Ground staff for their wonderful help before Christmas; setting up the Christmas tree in the Priory and providing holly, ivy and laurel for the decorations all round the Church. Best wishes to the team.

The Christmas shoe box appeal, sent 4625 gift filled shoe boxes, from our area, these were collected on the 2nd December and were delivered to the needy children in orphanages in Romania, well before Christmas. Thank you to all who helped in the appeal, special thanks to John Ferguson, and his staff at Remploy, Cleator Moor, who allowed us to use their factory as a collection and storage depot. We heard of two sisters who were happy to share a pair of gloves, taking it in turns to have a right or a left warm hand.

Millennium Play Many villagers will remember the highly successful Bega Miracle play in 2000 at the Priory. It is planned to stage it again sometime in 2010. This means that planning will need to start sometime in the next few months as it takes a considerable amount of organising. Are you interested in being involved in any way? We will need actors, singers, stagehands, technicians, best boys (whatever they are!), etc. If you

would be interested in any aspect of the production, please let me know. Ian M c A n d r e w 8 2 2 3 2 6 o r imcandrew@stbees.org.uk.

Lenten Lunches will be held in various homes on Saturdays in March and April before Easter. Everyone is welcome to come along. Do bring a friend and enjoy a meal in aid of several charities. The first lunch will be on Saturday 7th March. See posters for venues.

Margaret Lithgow, Geoff and family wish to thank the many very kind people for the beautiful flowers, cards and loving care they have shown at the sudden sad loss of David Lithgow. It is a great comfort.

The Amazing Collection - The Bible, book by book- for women.

We have almost finished looking at the books of the Old Testament now and are due to start The New Testament after the February half-term. We are having an introductory session on Tuesday 10th Feb at 9.30am or Thursday 12th Feb at 7.30 pm. Please feel free to come along and find out more. We are a very friendly bunch from all denominations and have learnt a lot together over the last 12 months as well as making some great friends. We meet downstairs in the Methodist church, St Bees every Tuesday 9.30-11.30am or Thursdays 7.30-9.15pm term times. You will be made most welcome.

NSPCC Christmas Coffee Morning raised £400.50. Many thanks to all who attended.

Grassroots

St Bees Badminton Club Please note that the club meets on **Tuesdays** from 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the School Sports Hall and not on Thursdays as stated in the last magazine. Apologies to anyone affected.

Priory Furnishing Fund Many thanks to everyone who supported the Carols and Coffee Evening. We wish to thank the Village Hall Committee for the warm, well-decorated room, Mrs Helen Bushby our pianist, Mrs J Walker and friends for the musical entertainment, especially the medley from "The Sound of Music". We all had a pleasant evening and a good start to Christmas.

Gents (& Ladies?) Did you get some nice shiny new tools in your Christmas stocking? Does that mean you now have some old surplus tools? I am trying to build up a toolkit for the Priory, mainly because when we need to do a quick job there, no tools are to hand, or, if it is a planned job and we take our own tools down, the vital one has inevitably been left at home. So if you have old tools you intend to throw away or dispose of via Freecycle (see separate item), I would appreciate first refusal. We would also like to build up a collection of gardening implements, so that anyone visiting the Sleeping Child Garden and feeling up to a bit of weeding, can pop into the Priory and get the appropriate tools. Contact Ian M c A n d r e w 8 2 2 3 2 6 o r imcandrew@stbees.org.uk.

Freecycle Have you come across Freecycle? This is an internet organisation with local branches aimed at recycling just about anything. The things that change hands (free of charge - a condition of the scheme) are quite amazing. Items offered

(just from this weekend) include a garden shed, furniture, TVs, electrical goods, and even a gecko and tree frogs! Items requested range from a foot stool, toys, body massager, shed (thus matching the wanted item) and so on. So if you need a second hand gizmo or wish to dispose of that wonderful mangelwurzel peeler you got 10 years ago but have never used but is too good to throw out, try Freecycle. Join by going to <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/westlakesrecyclers/>.

History Group - The history group continues to grow in size and now has about 2 dozen members. If you would like to join you would be most welcome - either come along to the meetings at Fernbank or contact Chris Robson (822468). Most meetings feature a short presentation on some historic village subject by a member or a guest, and discussion is fuelled by a glass of wine.

The History Group has recently purchased a video projector to help with its presentations. We are most grateful to Egremont and District Neighbourhood Forum and to the Parish Council for their help in funding this purchase.

The next meeting will include the AGM and will be at Fernbank, High House Road on Tuesday, 3 March at 7.30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

New Lights - You have probably noticed that the old deteriorating lamps on the gateposts at the south west entrance to the Priory have been replaced. The cost of purchase and fitting of the new has been met by The Friends, thanks to the continuing generosity of members and all who support our events.