

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088)

Associate Priest of St Bees Priory

Rural Dean of Calder

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498)

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

Sunday Services in Church

Services every Sunday at 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family)

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays Morning Worship - 10.30 am

2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion - 10.30 am

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (1st - Evensong, 4th - Communion)

Services are also Live Streamed

For weddings, baptisms, funerals and other religious occasions, please contact

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Priory Web Site - <http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk>

Hire of Priory & Halls

The church, Old College and New College halls are all available for hire for meetings, functions, lectures, concerts and recitals, etc. Contact booking officers for details.

Booking Officers

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk

Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

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

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* - Treasurer - Norman Killip, Honeybee House Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BD.

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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ABC will be back!

Calendar for April

2	Saturday	12.00 – 2 p.m.	Lent lunch, NCH
3	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	APCM & Morning Worship
5	Tuesday	7.00 p.m.	Seagalls, Seacote Hotel
9	Saturday	10.00 a.m.	Beach clean, meet Lifeboat Station
		Noon – 2 p.m.	Lent lunch, NCH
10	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Communion
		4.30 p.m.	Walk with the Cross Service
11	Monday	7.30 p.m.	WI, Village Hall
14	Thursday	9.30 a.m.	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
		12.00 noon	Holy Week Organ Music with Frank Bowler
15	Friday	3.00 p.m.	Good Friday Meditation – Hour at the cross
16	Saturday	7.00 p.m.	Easter Eve Vigil
17	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Easter Holy Communion
		6.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
24	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
25	Monday	6.30 p.m.	Parish Council, Village Hall

Please Note -

Fridays at 5.00 with Chris Robson for visitors to the Priory as from 8 April

Maundy Thursday 14 April at 12.00 noon at the Priory

A Passiontide Reflection - organ music for Holy Week with Frank Bowler. Music by Bach, Handel, Brahms and others. All welcome.

Editor May 2022

The **May 2022** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jon Mellor, Cross Hill House, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Friday 8 April please**.

Email: jonmell@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01946 824936.

Remembering Neville Denson

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Neville Denson was held at the Priory on 11th March attended by his family and many friends and neighbours. He was a distinguished and delightful gentleman, truly a ‘gentle-man’ of brilliant wit and sharp intellect. As Chief Executive of Copeland Council from 1973 – 1990, Neville was well-known and held in great respect by the people he served with total dedication and integrity. His abiding memories of serving the new council were – setting up Copeland Borough Council as first officer; representing that Council at the Windscale inquiry into Sellafield’s expansion; arranging general elections; organising many royal visits; meeting and presenting the Council’s case to Government ministers on different issues.

In his leisure he loved fellwalking and completed all 214 Wainwright peaks; and daily jogged up and down Tomlin suffering ‘wonky knees’ for his efforts! He was a keen cricketer amongst other sports and played for the North-Western League. In retirement Neville was a passionate writer of numerous letters and articles to newspapers, magazines and books – even cricketing verses published in the MCC Anthology. His wit and wisdom came to the fore in impromptu conversations with friends, online in his comical anecdotes, and in all his writings. Many villagers share happy memories of his exploits at village events and fetes, especially the renowned Raft Race, paddling their Jubilee raft on Pow Beck with his dear friend Alan Hawkins.

In his later years he served as Chairman of Age Concern NW Cumbria; and vice-chairman of Howgill Family Centre. He was also involved with local and regional radio and TV – serving on the Advisory Committees of BBC Radio Cumbria, and of BBC Northern & North-Western Regions. Neville had a remarkable talent and flair for communication, in political debate or across the airwaves or face-to-face in animated conversation!

Neville followed many diverse interests and pastimes in his life: loving music – classical, folk and jazz; the language of poetry and song - of the Great American Songbook; travelling especially in USA visiting nearly every state; putting the world to rights with his friends Alan Hawkins and John Warbrick every week over a few pints! He dearly loved spending time with his beloved family - thinking of Gweneth, Mandi, Janet and Matthew and their family. Neville will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with all his family.

St Bees News

April 2022

For freedom Christ has set us free. *Galatians 5:1*

I am writing this letter to you on Thursday 17th March, the day Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe arrived back in the UK, after spending almost six years as a prisoner in Iran. After months of dark and depressing news stories of death and destruction, due to Covid and, now, the war in Ukraine, Nazanin’s release is very welcome hopeful and happy news. After six long years, she is free, the return to a future “normal” life may not be easy but now she has a choice about how she lives it.

We have not known anything like the kind of loss of freedom Nazanin faced but, during the last two years, like her, our choices have been restricted or at least directed. We have been told to stay at home, wear a mask, not travel or visit family, isolate from others and stay safe to keep others safe. This month, many of us have our long awaited freedom back, and this too is good news; thanks, of course, to all the health professionals who got us to this point and the people who helped us along the way.

Many of us are now looking to the future, making plans to celebrate missed birthdays or attending delayed weddings and baptisms. There is much going on in the world to concern us but there is hope too, and opportunities for good times and good news stories.

It was encouraging to see the initial response to the crisis in the Ukraine and the donations of goods and money flowing in to go out to those in need. As I write several people from our local community are travelling to Poland to deliver some of these supplies. In opposition to the evil invasion of our neighbours, we rose up in defiant kindness and generosity. Inspired by the courage of the people of Ukraine and the hospitality of some of their neighbours we have chosen to act.

In his letter to the Galatians Paul wrote “For freedom Christ has set us free”. Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead that all creation might be freed from sin and death. On Easter day we celebrate God’s gift to us in our Saviour, Jesus Christ and give thanks that in him, we are free. In a world where freedom is a gift that not all enjoy, how we choose to use it, may be more important than ever.

...*For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Galatians 5:13-14*

With love in Lent and Easter from Reverend Becky

Priory News

Church Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 10 April

Services 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. & 6.00 p.m.. (Palm Crosses for all)
Walk with the Cross service at 4.30 p.m.. (after walk from Egremont)

Maundy Thursday 14 April - Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Good Friday 15 April - Meditation – Hour at the Cross at 3.00 p.m..

Saturday 16 April - Easter Eve Vigil at 7.00 p.m.

Easter Sunday 17 April - Holy Communion at 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m.

All welcome to come and celebrate Easter Festival! Alleluia - give thanks to the Risen Lord!

Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow, hopefully (precautions permitting) outside in the West Door courtyard after Easter service.

Palm Sunday Festival will be celebrated on 10 April with the distribution of palm crosses to everyone in church. In keeping with an ancient Priory tradition, children (under 21s) will also receive Cross buns and an orange.

Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM)

The APCM will be held within the service at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 3 April this year, as we return to the normal schedule. Elections of officers and church councillors will take place, reports of Priory organisations and the financial accounts for the last year will be presented.

Two churchwardens will be standing down this year – Rosalie McAndrew retiring after nearly 30 years in office, and Wendy Mellor also retiring to follow her training as a Lay Reader. Both will continue to be involved as PCC members and in the life and worship of the Priory.

Holy Week Walk with the Cross

Organised by Churches Together in Egremont & District – this will set off from Egremont Methodist Church at 3.00 p.m. on Palm Sunday 10 April and proceed to the Priory for a short service by 4.30 p.m. Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome.

On Monday 11 April the Cross will be carried to Bigrigg Church via High House Road & Linethwaite, leaving the Priory at 6.30 p.m. Then on Tuesday to Moor Row at 6.30 p.m.; Wednesday to Egremont Parish Church at 6.30 p.m.; and on Good Friday to Thornhill leaving at 5.30 p.m. for the final service.

News from the Village School

The horrific situation in the Ukraine has shocked and appalled the world, and our hearts go out to the people. As a school we wanted to lend our support so we held a 'Supporting Ukraine Day'. The children came to school dressed in blue and yellow, and sported sunflowers and the Ukrainian flag. We decided to support Millbry Hill in their collection of vital items so the staff and children donated toiletries which we then delivered to Millbry Hill Store in Whitehaven. We can only pray that by the time you are reading this, the state of affairs has greatly changed.

Along with our Silver Smarties Challenge, we have been very busy fundraising for a number of different causes. We marked Red Nose Day when the children came to school in non-uniform, bought red noses and made donations to this worthy cause.

We were very fortunate to have two authors in school for World Book Day. The children in Years 1 to 6 were very excited to be working with the authors who talked about their books and held writing workshops with them. As part of the day the children dressed up as a character from their favourite book and donations were put towards a new class reading book for each class.

We held a takeaway coffee and cake afternoon just before Mother's Day. Parents popped in to buy takeaway coffees, teas and cakes from the school hall and we held a Mother's Day/Easter themed raffle for school funds.

Science week in mid-March involved a fun-filled week full of practical activities, experiments and investigations. The theme this year was 'growth' and parents were invited to come into school and share their knowledge and expertise with the children.

The 'Bees Bash' team are busy organising their event, which will take place this year on Saturday 2 July. Our ex-Chair of the VSA is one of the organisers and they are putting together a more traditional Village Fete this year, including (hopefully) the Fancy Dress Parade, which we would love to see our pupils take part in, as they did in years gone by. No doubt the team themselves will be keeping villagers updated via St Bees News!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Emma Sharp, Head teacher

Village Hall events

Saturday 28 May - Kit Holmes with Al Greenwood on Guitar

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Saturday 25 June 2022 - 'These Hills Are Ours' by Daniel Bye and Boff Whalley

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Priory News

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party raised £125 for the North lakes Foodbank which was gratefully received. Many thanks to organiser Sally Kennedy, the servers and pancake chefs Anne and Helen.

The Mothers' Union of Carlisle Diocese Triennial meeting was held at the Priory, when Bishop James commissioned Deb Lee M.U. president for the next 3 years along with group members. A splendid 'cornucopia' of M.U. banners was paraded in the Priory creating a colourful and spiritual occasion. The event raised £312 for the worldwide work of the Mothers' Union.

Lent Lunches in April

The Lent Lunches for 2 charities will continue on Saturdays 2 and 9 April from 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. in New College Hall, serving home-made soup with bread and cheese in aid of NSPCC (St Bees branch) and Save the Children. Do come and meet friends for a tasty meal for two great causes!

Judo Club in New College upper hall – The PCC has agreed to rent the upper hall to the Judo Club who were without a venue, but have now equipped the upstairs hall and will meet there regularly for their Judo and Aikido Clubs. This was good news for the church, as we had no users for the upper hall and funding is essential for the maintenance of the building. Please note that the lower hall is available as usual for hire.

Fridays at Five - Learn about Village & Priory History - Starting from April 8th, there will be an opportunity for visitors, cross-England walkers and others to learn a little about the history of the village and Priory, find out about the St Bees Man and hear the Priory organ at full volume.
Every Friday at 5pm. Lasts 35 minutes. Free. In the Priory.

From the Priory Registers

Holy Baptism

6 March	Maeve Nichol	Fairladies, St Bees
13 March	Alexandra Cruden	Coulderton

Christian Funeral

11 March	Peter Neville Denson	12 Abbots Way, St Bees
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May God's blessing be upon you and your families, now and always.

Priory Flower Rota for April/May

3 April	Lent – no flowers	10 April	Palm Sunday – Palms
17 April	Easter – Pat Crichton	24 April	Easter flowers
1 May	Dilys Brownrigg	8 May	Kay Steele

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Thanks

“THOMAS TYSON begs to return his sincere and grateful Thanks to the Inhabitants of St. Bees for their able and devoted Assistance in extinguishing the Fire at the NEW HOTEL, in that village, on Tuesday evening last; and particularly to Lloyd James Esq., who gave the first Alarm, and to Mr. Atkinson, Railway Contractor, and Mr. Isaac Dickinson who were the first to enter the Building, regardless of Danger, and laudably exerted themselves to extinguish the Flames, by which Exertions the House, though greatly Injured, was ultimately saved from utter Destruction”.



Last month's History page told how, as the workmen were finishing the building we now know as “Grindal”, an attempt was made to burn it down. In fact, there were two attempts, just evenings apart, but the first was not recognised as arson at the time.

Thomas Tyson's notice, above, appeared in the “Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser” four days after the second attempt. The same issue announced a Reward: £50 would be given by Mr. Tyson, and £100 by his Insurer, for information leading to the arsonists' conviction. These were handsome sums indeed – totalling over £12,000 in today's values. But as far as I can discover, no one was convicted of the crime, and no rewards were paid. (If anyone reading this knows differently, I would be grateful to hear).

I hardly like to think what the punishment would have been had an arsonist been caught. In those days the Courts awarded sentences which seem to us now quite savage. In this same year an elderly pauper who found and kept a pocket watch went to Hard Labour for two years, and a youth of sixteen years who stole six bottles of wine from a Whitehaven warehouse was transported to a Penal Colony for eighteen. Did folk in St. Bees have any suspicions about who was responsible for the Hotel fire? James Brindle, farmer and proprietor of the Seacote Hotel, would hardly have welcomed the competition – could he be in any way involved? It seems very unlikely, but the truth is that we just don't know.

There was nothing in existence in those days like today's Police Force with its detective arm, and Law and Order were very much the affair of the Parish Constables. Two were appointed each year by the village's Ratepayers from amongst their own number, to serve unpaid for that year only. Quite often in St. Bees they were from the village's shopkeepers; they might have had excellent local knowledge, but probably poor expertise as detectives.

Next month's magazine will see the Opening of the Hotel.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

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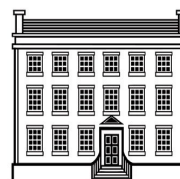
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St Bees Priory Jubilee Celebration

A number of tables will be placed around the Priory to illustrate the changes that have happened over the last 70 years. There will be 7 stations for each decade of the Queens reign....1952 to 1959, 1960 to 1969, 1970 to 1979 ...ending with 2010 to 2022.

It is hoped that each station will show up some of the important national and local events that have made an impact during the Queen's reign. Headlines from newspapers, local photographs, magazines, perhaps even clothing, toys and domestic articles could be used to chart the last 70 years - from Suez crisis to pandemic by way of the moon landing and the St Bees big snow.

It is hoped that individuals or local groups will take responsibility for these stations. Further information from Chris Robson (822468). The exhibition will open on Sunday 29 May.

St Bees Green Future

Time for a spring clear out?

Last year residents of Sea Mill Lane held a successful yard sale over the May Bank Holiday and there appears to be an appetite for a village wide sale this year – probably on Saturday 30 April in order not to impact on the Jubilee celebrations.

Each household would be responsible for their own sale or you could group together with other homes or hold it in a convenient spot if your home is not suitable.

Any money raised could be for charity or to support your own funds – your choice!

To gauge interest, please email stbeesgreenfuture@gmail.com with your name and area and if we have enough people interested, we can organise publicity to draw customers!

If you want any help or have questions on how to organise your sale, please email and we will respond. We will also post updates in the St Bees News and Views group on Facebook.

It is a great opportunity to clear those cupboards, attics and garages, raise some cash and keep it out of landfill!

Order your Fair Trade Easter Eggs to give away to the Food Bank

You can order milk, dark or white chocolate Easter Eggs with the Easter message. If you like something different, there is a Dark Raspberry Egg, or an Egg Hunt box. Perhaps you prefer little eggs, milk, dark or speckled or some praline ones from Oxfam? Make a difference this Easter, order Fair trade Eggs to enjoy or give some away to the food bank.

Order by April 11 via Deb lee535877@aol.com 01946 823470. Thank you!

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Young people's questionnaire

St Bees Parish Council devised a questionnaire to find out about the facilities and activities young people would like to see in St Bees. The questionnaire asked young people to choose their preferred three facilities and activities from a list of nine, as well as providing the opportunity to suggest their own ideas. 76 questionnaires were completed by 10 - 16-year-olds, which is estimated to be 50% of that age group in St Bees.

Analysis of preference ranked the nine listed facilities and activities as follows, starting with the most popular:

Facilities for skateboards/BMX/scooters	Teen café
Basketball hoop	Outdoor gym equipment
Ball wall	Teen shelter
Volleyball on the beach	Outdoor table tennis
Opportunities for voluntary work	

Of the 60 young people that gave ideas for other facilities and activities, 23% suggested various sporting activities, 18% an Astroturf pitch, 17% a youth club, 12% cycle paths and 12% non-sporting activities such as film showings, drama, art and music.

St Bees Parish Council is now looking into the feasibility of the various facilities and activities, while taking into account young people's preferences, to help determine the next step for this project.

Thank you to everyone that helped to distribute the questionnaire to young people.

Next Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 25 April 2022 at 6.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This is a week later than usual to avoid a clash with the Easter Bank Holiday. Local residents are always welcome to attend.

WI News

Our March "Guess Who" evening was a lot of fun and laughter; many stories were revealed, things that we never knew about our fellow members! For example, one of our ladies saw the Queen open Calder Hall in 1956, another went to Alan Titchmarsh's 21st birthday, while another was rescued by fire fighters while on holiday in Las Vegas. Thank you to all our ladies who took part. This was followed by refreshments and raffle. The competition a spring flower display and was won by Angela Blair.

Our April meeting is Monday 11 at 7.30 p.m. Please note change of venue; we are at the Village Hall (Hodgett's) for our April and May meetings. Our April meeting is a bring and share buffet and the competition is an Easter bonnet, as well as a Raffle.

Do come and join us; new members and visitors most welcome. Further details www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI, village Notice Boards, or contact Roxanne Benson 823137.

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Parish Council News

Consultation on changes to parking restrictions – Some residents will have received a letter from Cumbria County Council about proposed changes to parking restrictions. The proposals include making the time limited parking on Main Street a disc zone, extending the double yellow lines on Finkle Street and putting double yellow lines across the junction of Main Street and Sea Mill Lane to keep the junction clear of parked vehicles. The Parish Council had no prior information on what was proposed and will be considering its response to the consultation at its meeting on 21 March. At this stage it is just a preliminary consultation and CCC is seeking comments by 11 April.

Beach Toilets and Play Area - the Parish Council is arranging for the ladies and gents toilets to be deep-cleaned and some doors etc repainted in readiness for the start of the summer season. Work will also be carried out to refurbish the disabled toilet. There are a number of repairs outstanding at the play area but the Parish Council has authorised the expenditure and hopes to have most of the repairs completed by the start of the summer season. We would remind everyone that dogs are not allowed in the play area and that the equipment is intended for those aged 14 and under and should not be used by adults.

Izaro Anchor – the anchor from the SS Izaro is now back in place on the Wainwright wall. The Parish Council is very grateful to the lifeboat crew who have kept the anchor in safe keeping for some months after it became loose and have now fitted it back into position – not an easy task as it is extremely heavy!

Beach clean - Thank you to the 16 volunteers that attended the litter pick at St Bees Beach in March. The next organised beach clean, which is part of the Great British Spring Clean, is on Saturday 9 April, meeting at 10 a.m. at St Bees Lifeboat Station. Litter pickers and bags are provided, but please bring your own gloves. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees Beach clean.

Footpath from Beach Rd to Beach estate – the light on the pedestrian footpath has been out of action for some weeks but the Parish Council has been working with the officer responsible for footway lighting at CBC and we hope to see it back in operation soon.

Faulty street lights and highways problems – Cumbria Highways has introduced a new reporting system which they hope will make it easier for residents to report problems such as faulty lights, pot holes etc. The County Council web-site (www.cumbria.gov.uk) has an online form which can be used or faults can be reported by telephone (0300 303 2992). Those reporting problems will receive a reference number and a confirmation email when action has been taken. If the problem isn't resolved, please contact the Clerk who will follow up the issue.

Beach car park lights – Copeland Borough Council has arranged for new LED lighting units to be fitted to the lights in the beach car park and for the damaged columns to be replaced. It is hoped that the lights will be back in operation shortly. CBC also has plans to repaint the lighting columns.

Grassroots

Lowes Court Art Gallery has many new products for sale this springtime from their local artists. Do visit & view – handmade footstool by Moffat Makes @ £35; Memory Joggers (personal patchwork pictures, commissions accepted); Strange Ceramics; paintings by Dawn Mills of Dramatic Seas; new and distinctive paintings by Chris Robson; a Royal Collection of knitted tea cosies and bunting; and atmospheric prints of Natalie's original acrylic tree paintings. Lowes Court is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email lowescourt@gmail.com

Polite Notice – To all churchyard visitors and those tending graves – now that grass cutting has started in the churchyard, could all Christmas wreaths and decorations please be removed? The wire wreaths can cause damage to the mowers (men and machines).

Update on Hannah Todhunter from The Crofts - Hannah has completed her deployment with the Royal Navy to the South China Seas on HMS Kent. She visited several places including Gaum (twice), Japan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Kenya, as well as several places in the Mediterranean. Hannah finally arrived back in Portsmouth on 12 December 2021. During the trip she was promoted to Petty Officer and is currently at Worthy Down near Winchester doing courses relating to her promotion.

Volunteers - A plea for volunteers to help keep our beautiful Priory grounds manicured. Join the Holy Mowers (very genial group meeting weekly) to help with grass-cutting and general maintenance. Secondly, volunteers for manning the PA desk. It may be of interest to young or old aspiring media studies students wanting to add to their CV with regard to sound engineering and live streaming; no pay but tuition is free. Contact Malcolm Lightfoot on 07500466485 or 01946824273 or any Church Warden.

Welcome to David and Shirley North of 24 The Crofts.

RNLI

Just before 2:40 p.m. on Thursday 10 March the volunteers at St Bees RNLI were requested by Belfast Coastguard to assist two windsurfers reported to be in difficulties about five miles south of the lifeboat station. St Bees volunteers launched their lifeboat Joy Morris MBE on Thursday afternoon after a member of the public had reported seeing what looked like two windsurfers struggling just off the beach near Nethertown. The lifeboat crew made their way to where the two had last been seen and began a search of the area. The two windsurfers were found making their way up the coast. As soon as the lifeboat crew had confirmed they were both OK and not in need of assistance, they left them to enjoy the rest of their day and returned to the station.

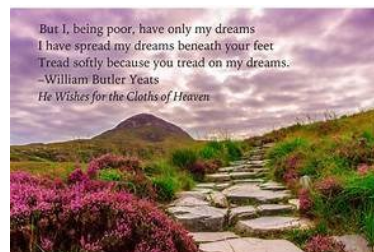
Dick Beddows, St Bees RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager said 'This was a false alarm with good intent. We would like to thank the member of the public who did the right thing by dialling 999 and asking for the Coastguard'.

It does not seem right to be writing about “Treading Gently” when, at the time of writing, one country is stomping all over another with devastating consequences. Perhaps, though, it reinforces the need to “Tread Gently” in many ways. Although not as dramatic and overwhelming as the pictures and stories from Ukraine, many, in low income countries, may feel as though they are at war. **Our** failure to control climate change resulting in **their** crops dying in the drought and the floods destroying their houses might seem to them like a bombardment.

“They come with dreams cradled in their hopes,
that children can be lifted out of poverty,
that peace could emerge from the ashes of war,
that people might just learn how to love each other.
When we hunger to do the harder right, rather than
the easier expediency
When our thirst for justice will not be quenched by
sugary platitudes
When fairness breaks out in the corridors of power,
then we will have found our way.”

(adapted from Genesis 37 and Proverbs 2 by Grace will lead us home, Shuman)

Let us find our way to tread gently.



A celebration and a request for forgiveness

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Festival Service for the Mothers’ Union with Bishop James at St Bees Priory so special. It was not only appreciated by the 100+ who worshipped in person, but also by the same number who joined remotely. We are so lucky to have such a magnificent building, such a fine organist and choir, to make such wonderful music and so many good cake bakers!

The Mothers’ Union aims to support and sustain family life. It is open to anyone who is baptised: male/female/LGBT or married/single/divorced. You just have to agree to support the aims and objectives.

Years ago, the Mothers’ Union, like the church, generally, was not so welcoming to all and this has caused great hurt. For which, on behalf of the Mothers’ Union I offer a sincere apology.

But the Mothers’ Union now is inclusive and very active in Britain and across the world, supporting the vulnerable, especially women, who make up 70% of the world’s poorest people. The Mothers’ Union also campaigns and lobbies Government to ensure that children and families receive the support and protection that they need. Many local families have enjoyed short breaks paid for by the Mothers’ Union.

The vision of the Mothers’ Union is a world where everyone prospers. It is active in 84 countries and 4 million members contribute to a wave of prayer that passes over the world every noon. If you want to find out more please visit <https://www.mothersunion.org/>

or contact Deb lee535877@aol.com Tel. 823470.

St Bees School

Ukrainian students rally community support for donation appeal

Ahaffia, Mariia and Diana are Ukrainian boarding students at St Bees School who joined forces with their fellow students to launch an appeal which saw donations coming in from all corners of the county. The three girls, who are currently in Year 8 and Year 10, wanted to do all they could to support their country and its people in any way they could.

With the help of the School Council and Headmaster, Mr Silk, the Ukraine Appeal was launched to the public, asking for donations of essential items such as warm clothes, toiletries and non-perishable foods.

The response from the community was incredible, with over 25 bags full of donations arriving at the school less than 24 hours after the appeal was launched on social media and hundreds of donations flooded in after the weekend.

The girls also created their own Ukraine ribbons so that people could show their support for the country while making a small donation towards relief and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Mariia was overwhelmed at the response, saying “It was very emotional to see all the donations coming in from the community. We just wanted to help the people of Ukraine since we were so far away from home and felt helpless, but the number of donations has been a lot more than we expected!”

Diana agrees “It’s inspiring! We didn’t expect to reach so many people with a small idea and the local community have been so generous with their donations.”

Ahaffia, Year 8, was thrilled to see so many donations coming in. “I just want to say thank you to the Cumbrian community on behalf of the three of us and St Bees School – this support will help those most in need”

While the donation appeal is now closed, anyone who would still like to support the school’s efforts can donate to their online fundraiser at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stbeesschoolukraineappeal>.

Seagalls

We met at the Queens St Bees for sandwiches and chips on the 1 March prior to our popular and well-attended quiz night. Nina did an excellent job of providing and reading the quiz questions, some of which were very challenging. The quiz ended in a tie; there were two joint first places and third place was decided by the toss of a coin. The winners were rewarded with vouchers for Greggs. Thank you to Nina for organising the quiz questions and collecting the sandwich money. Also, many thanks to Nathan and his staff for their hospitality.

Our next meeting will be on 5 April at 7 p.m. at the Seacote for the return of Maggie’s crafts; all are welcome.