

# St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

**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 David Cox

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee - 07841 398088

## Sunday Services

**10.30 a.m. every Sunday**

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See [www.stbeespriory.org.uk](http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk) for details

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

**01946 822279 or email [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk)

Priory Secretary - [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto: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.*

Circulation - 900 households in St Bees, Sandwith, Rottington, Linethwaite, Coulderton, Middletown, Nethertown.

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



## St Bees Parish A B C

<b>Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	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 (822674).
<b>Arts Society</b>	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Bellringing</b>	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 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
<b>Brownies</b>	Brownies meet on Tuesdays. Further details can be obtained from Leanne Cherry, contact 07805154408.
<b>Cubs, Scouts, Beavers</b>	Cubs for children aged 8 - 10, meet on Thursdays, 6.30 - 8pm. Beavers meet on Thursdays (term time) from 5.00 - 6.00 pm. Details from Graham Young. They meet in CCF Hut, St Bees School. Scouts meet at Egremont.
<b>Choir</b>	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
<b>Churchwardens</b>	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Derek McGee
<b>Councillors</b>	Copeland - Cllr Jeffrey Hailes- 01946 814819, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m Monday to Friday. Cumbria - Cllr Chris Whiteside, 01946 67575 or 07798667678. E-mail <a href="mailto:chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk">chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk</a>
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
<b>Fair Trade</b>	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - <a href="mailto:lee535877@aol.com">lee535877@aol.com</a>
<b>Finance</b>	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
<b>First Responders</b>	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
<b>Football Association</b>	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
<b>Freemasons</b>	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or <a href="http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk">www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk</a> .
<b>Friends of the Priory</b>	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.
<b>Garden Society</b>	Dtails from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

<b>Guides</b>	meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email <a href="mailto:stbeesguides@yahoo.com">stbeesguides@yahoo.com</a>
<b>History Group</b>	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Over 60's Club</b>	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
<b>Parish Council</b>	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, e.mail <a href="mailto:pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk">pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk</a> , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	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 - Jon Mellor, <a href="mailto:jonmell@hotmail.co.uk">jonmell@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Playgroup (Toddler Group)</b>	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from Amy Linton - Email - <a href="mailto:amylinton1983@gmail.com">amylinton1983@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pop-in Cafe</b>	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
<b>Pre-School</b>	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
<b>Prayer Group</b>	meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.
<b>Priory Singers</b>	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307. <i>Not meeting at present.</i>
<b>Priory Web Site</b>	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk">http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk</a>
<b>Seagalls</b>	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Lynne Smith - Tel. 822285 - or Judith 07772523742
<b>St Bees Triers</b>	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email <a href="mailto:running@triers.uk">running@triers.uk</a> Tel. 823497 Web <a href="http://www.triers.co.uk">www.triers.co.uk</a>
<b>St Bees Youth Group</b>	meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7.00 p.m. in New College Hall. All youngsters of secondary school age are welcome. Contact organisers on 07518 394297.
<b>Village School Association</b>	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
<b>Village Hall</b>	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
<b>Village in Bloom</b>	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St.Bees. (Tel 822522).
<b>Village Web Site</b>	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or <a href="mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk">imcandrew@stbees.org.uk</a> Address is <a href="http://www.stbees.org.uk">http://www.stbees.org.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in New College Hall (see program). Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

## Calendar for February 2021

### Calendar for February

7	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Livestream service
9	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	PCC Zoom meeting
14	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Livestream service
15	Monday	6.30 p.m.	Parish Council Webex meeting
17	Wednesday		Ash Wednesday
21	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Livestream service
28	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Livestream Fairtrade service

### Road works and road closures

#### Monday 1 February to Friday 12 February

Road closure on Main Street - Outrigg Junction to Oddfellows Lane

#### Monday 15 February to Thursday 18 February

Road closure from Railway Station to Priory Entrance

### Editor - March 2021 Magazine

The **March 2021** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jon Mellor, Cross Hill House, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions not later than Monday 8 February please.

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

## St Bees News

## February 2021

### Rectory Ramblings

I was taking a service and pondered, 'Why is it that so many people find the 23rd Psalm so supportive – even when things are just awful?'

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

*He leads me beside still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

*you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,*

*and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Well, it's short and memorable, it has a gentle rhythm, and the words flow. Most of the tunes are really singable, from 'Crimond to Dibley' they all add 'something'.

The first verse introduces a shepherd, a compassionate companion who supplies assurance in the face of anxiety.

Verse 2 uses the picture of a green pasture and cool waters, to elicit a response of comfort quiet and peace. If you have ever relaxed by the side of one of our great lakes and quietly pondered the peace of the pool of tranquil water, then you know the writer has been there too and is not telling you how to feel but sharing how you feel.

Verse 3 reminds us that the Lord – is for you a leader who touches your soul and will lead you to new horizons because of His very nature, not because he wants power over you.

Verse 4 uses the 'valley of the shadow of death', and if you have ever plunged into a dark shadow filled valley on a warm sunny day and felt the sudden chill in the air – then you know the exact feeling the writer is sharing with you in words. The valley is dark, you do stumble, it is a chilling place – yet, there you are, not isolated on your own but upheld and strengthened by the Lord's own strengthening staff and values.

Verse 5 uses an almost fantasy scene to encourage you.... at the worst of times, he will show you a full rich table of Fare (food). One does reflect upon the richness of life in the face of loss or difficulty. The idea of being anointed – like a King or Queen and being given a flowing cup (of rich wine) in the face of enemies is a reminder that your real home is the house of the lord where his hospitality and care in life and death is overflowing.

Psalms have been called, 'the poetry of the soul that comforts the heart'. The repeating and revisiting of such a piece of poetry that was written by a person who knew really hard times does enable us to face challenge and change that may seem overwhelming, but believe it or not, is survivable and you do have the strength to face.

*Rev'd Richard Lee,*

*Rural Dean*



## *Priory News*

**Christmas Services in the Priory** - were beautiful ceremonies with wonderful choral carols and much appreciated, lifting spirits in an unusually subdued season. Worshippers, required to sanitise and distance and mask, received a warm and friendly welcome, which eased the official process. The services were well attended, the booking system worked efficiently, and we could celebrate the Christmas festival, whether in church or online. The double Carol Service filled up on both occasions, and for the first time ever, services of Seven Lessons and Carols were offered, limited to one hour maximum. So, the Three Kings had to wait until Epiphany for their entrance? Not so. They were honoured in the crib scene and in Chris Robson's display for the 'Christmas Journey' presentation on Christmas Eve.

**Sincere thanks** to all who contributed to these special services – choir and organist, Vicar and readers, the booking officers, and all those who created such beauty and joy in our church. We felt blessed to share the peace and joy of Christmas together.

**Many thanks to Mary Branford** for the lovely Advent wreath, the last year before her retirement as chief flower-arranger and organiser, and to Pat Crichton for the Christmas flower-arrangements.

**More thanks** to the Lightfoot/McAndrew team for decorating the Priory Christmas tree, and to Colin Wadey and David Hope for installing the tree in position; and again to Colin and friend for their help in removing the tree and pebble trug. Lifeboatmen's knots are ideal for tying up fir trees!

**Sincere thanks** go to John Kennedy and Jack Hale for hoisting the illuminated cross onto the belfry tower – a dazzling sight this Christmas with its new LED lightbulbs – and to Doug Sim for floodlighting the Priory for the festive season, until Candlemas.

**Christmas Gifts under the Priory Tree** – Thank you everyone for your thoughtful and kind gifts to our senior St Beghians locally and in care homes. They were pleased to be remembered and to receive a present in a distanced doorstep visit or by post. Many feel quite isolated and alone, missing a social chat and a good laugh. Let's do our best to phone or keep in touch with someone we know who is housebound and lonely.

## *From the Priory Registers*

### **Christian Funeral**

14 December Elizabeth Farquhar Simpson (nee Robertson)      Cleator Moor Road,  
Whitehaven

Elizabeth's family were much involved with music at the Priory for many years, as her brother Ted Robertson was Priory organist for 51 years, her two children Anne and David were choristers in their youth, and Elizabeth sang at recitals and concerts. Lovingly remembered and greatly missed.

**In Memoriam** – Leslie Polley formerly of St Bees died at Highfield Care Home on Greenbank in December after a time of illness. Deepest Sympathy is extended to his wife Loes and his family.

## *Rhoda Bryan*

It is with great sadness that we share the recent news that Mrs Rhoda Bryan died on 28 January at her home in Northern Ireland, after several months of illness. Many villagers will remember her with great affection and gratitude – well-known and much loved, she was the wife of Reverend Philip Bryan, vicar here from 1977 to 2006, and a devoted teacher at the Village School for some 20 years. Always such a loving and caring lady, with a generous and joyful heart. Rhoda kept in touch with the Priory and her many good friends in the congregation and the parish.

She had been seriously ill since June last year, but was able to enjoy visits from Patrick her son, and Rosie her daughter over Christmas and New Year. They both shared in her care over the last few weeks. The funeral will be held at Whitehead Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Patrick and Rosie, and their families.

## *Last Word 4*

As the confusion of 2020 recedes into history, it is tempting in 2021 to think that the much quoted light at the end of the tunnel is exactly that and not the light of a rapidly advancing train.

The application of Murphy's Law to recent events seems appropriate.

"If anything can go wrong, it will do".

It is not clear who the original Murphy was, possibly an American engineer working for the US Airforce. Applied to a particular experiment that went wrong, the saying rapidly expanded to apply to "the perceived perversity of the Universe and the seemingly spiteful behaviour manifested by inanimate objects".

Paul Jennings many years ago invented the word "resistentialism" that applies to falling buttered toast, a box of spanners that fit everything but the problem nut or the freezer that fails when you have just left on holiday. There are numbers of different examples, so a cautionary note is required for 2021.

Murphy was an optimist

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## Retirement of Mary Branford

Mary Branford, chief flower-arranger and organiser of the Flower Rota and all things floral at the Priory has decided to retire from this role. All worshippers at the Priory and many villagers would like to express their sincere gratitude to Mary for her many years of devoted service of floristry to the church, and her beautiful flower arrangements through the seasons and festivals; her encouragement of other arrangers learning the art; and her enthusiasm and friendly welcome to visitors as she worked there.

Offers for the role of Flower Organiser, please see below.

**Flower Organiser** - Also thanks are due to Mary for kindly preparing the Flower Rota for 2021, which hopefully may get started - by Easter?

If anyone on the rota feels able and willing to accept the role of Flower arranger & organiser, please chat to Mary or contact Rosalie McAndrew on 01946 822326.

### Priory Flower Rota

Please note that the rota is suspended for the time being, until normal worship resumes, and when we have an organiser arranged after Mary Branford's retirement.

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## Parish Council News

**Christmas Event** - it seems a long time ago now but the Santa Parade did go ahead- albeit with some changes to arrangements in line with the Covid restrictions. We are very grateful to all those who volunteered to take part and make the event a success, including St Bees Radio who changed their schedule to provide live coverage of Santa making his way around the village.

**Footpaths** – Cumbria County Council responded promptly to the reports of a muddy section on the path from Sea Mill to Nethertown Rd and carried out remedial work before Christmas which has greatly improved the situation. Many more people are using our public footpaths for exercise during the lockdown and a team of volunteers is currently walking all the paths to identify where work/signage is required. The Parish Council will then work with CCC to see how best we can work together to keep the paths in good condition. There have been several reports recently of mountain bikers using public footpaths. We understand that people want to get out for exercise but cycling is not permitted on public footpaths - it causes damage to the surfaces as well as posing a risk to walkers.

**Projects & Precepts-** the Parish Council has been looking at the projects it hopes to undertake in 2021/22 and its budget for the year. In the coming financial year the Parish Council will set aside £5000 as a contribution to the costs of extending the pavement on Outrigg to improve the safety of pedestrians, particularly children walking to the school entrance. It is hoped that the work can be done in 2021/22 subject to an engineering assessment of the location. The Parish Council also hopes to progress the project to extend the Station car park to provide off-street parking and relieve pressure on the streets in the centre of the village. There are also plans to upgrade the small play area on Outrigg but this is likely to be delayed until 2022/23. Almost all the Parish Council's income comes from the precept (the small amount which is added to the council tax for properties in the parish) and almost half of that income each year goes on maintaining the play areas and running the beach toilets. In order to finance the projects next year the Parish Council will use some of its reserves and will also raise the precept to £50,000. This will mean an increase of approx. £6.61 per year for a Band D property.

**Bin collections** – a combination of bad weather and the Covid restrictions has been causing some delays with collection of black bins and recycling across Copeland. CBC is asking the bins are put out for collection on the usual day and they will be collected as soon as possible if it can't be done on the usual day. The CBC website provides regular updates on the situation. CBC has also asked that residents help by keeping narrow roads clear of parked vehicles so the refuse vehicles can access properties.

**Meetings** – The Parish Council is continuing to hold its monthly meetings remotely via Cisco Webex until government advice changes. Members of the public are still welcome to join the meeting - the details of how to join will be published on the agenda (available on the web-site and noticeboards). The next meeting will be Monday 15 February at 6.30pm.

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**Councillor Jeffrey Hailes**

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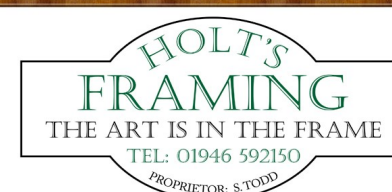
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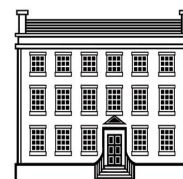
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## ***Holy Habits during Lent 2021***

During Lent this year we will be returning to our Holy Habits Discipleship programme that we began last autumn. Just to remind you, a few years ago, Andrew Roberts, a Methodist minister, wrote a book which he entitled, 'Holy Habits', reflecting on the passage in Acts Chapter 2 that Luke painted of the Early Church.

### **Acts 2:42-47**

Andrew identified 10 Holy Habits that Luke described as being central to the early church, habits that believers practised communally, encouraging, and supporting one another. These practices were:

Biblical teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, eating together, giving service, worship, sharing resources, gladness and generosity, and the making of more disciples. As we explore and encourage each other in the practicing of this holy habit over the course of Lent we hope to stimulate an engagement with the following questions...

- How could we strengthen our prayer life and the prayer lives of others in the church?
- How can we deepen and embed prayer in the day to day life of our churches?
- What does prayer mean to people who are not in the church?
- What could we offer our wider community as they explore or engage in prayer?
- How can the church be part of the community through its prayer?
- When we are struggling to pray, or when prayers are not answered in the way we hope or expect, how can we support one another to wrestle with that before God in prayer?

Lent fellowship group will take place on Zoom on Monday evenings at 7pm for an hour.

22nd February: An emotional outpouring      1st March: The Solomon Process

8th March: Raw and Raging      15th March: Praying when we get it wrong

22nd March: Houses of Prayer      29th March: Change the world.

The Zoom link is as follows: (See also Page 9)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89424369285?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89424369285?pwd=MIBDcjNDODBDa1Fob1lxMHhZYtJGQT09)

[pwd=MIBDcjNDODBDa1Fob1lxMHhZYtJGQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89424369285?pwd=MIBDcjNDODBDa1Fob1lxMHhZYtJGQT09)

**Meeting ID:** 894 2436 9285      **Passcode:** 364422

You can join the group by dialling in on a landline on one of the following numbers:

0131 460 1196, 0203 051 2874, or 0203 481 5237

Remember to input the passcode and the meeting ID when prompted into your handset followed by a #

During our time together we will spend time reading and reflecting on a particular Bible passage related to this practice, sharing and learning from each other, ending with a time of prayer. Everyone is welcome.

Please don't worry if you can't make all the dates as each week will stand alone.

If you would like to join in, or would like to know more, then do message either Nicki or Becky. We would love to chat with you about it.

**Rev Nicki Pennington, Priest in Charge of the Crosslacon Team:**

**The Vicarage, Trumpet Road, Cleator CA23 3EF.**

**Email:** [revnickipennington@gmail.com](mailto:revnickipennington@gmail.com), 01946 451257 or 07462194549

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## *How it might have been*

“It was just getting light as Oswald the monk, and Gothrum, and their serving-boy Gildred came along the side of the valley. It was all swampy and wet below them, where the wild ducks and herons lived, and they could just see the place where the beck ran into the sea. Oswald and Gothrum were on ponies, but poor Gildred had to walk, carrying the two stout poles and the wooden hammer which Oswald would be needing later. They were looking for the place already chosen for their new church: a raised-up piece of land where a spring of water came up out of the ground. It was by a tiny settlement that had been St Bega’s home long before. Or so people said, and it was still called Kirkby Becok (meaning “by Bega’s church”) to remember her.”

Of course, much of this is nonsense. Oswald, Gothrum and Gildred are imaginary, and we know nothing of the real people who chose our church’s site. This account comes from a group of our Village School children whom I had asked to let their imaginations run freely. We had looked at the lie of the land around the church beforehand; one puzzle was: how did builders who had no compasses ensure a true East / West axis? Even if they had known of the “equal altitude” method of finding North (so beloved by Scouts and Guides and soldiers of my generation) the result might not have been accurate. And with the Second Coming promised from the East, accuracy clearly mattered.

The children’s account may seem over-simplistic, but none of its authors was older than ten. It went on:

“It was midsummer’s day, when every year the sun rises exactly in the East. Before it was properly light, Gildred held one of the poles upright while Gothrum hammered it into the ground. Then they all watched for the sun to appear. As it began to rise over the horizon, Oswald placed the second pole some way behind the first, with the two poles and the sun in a line. Gothrum hammered in the second pole also.

“So now they knew where East was, and had a line safely marked for the new church to be built on. They knelt down in the grass and thanked God for making the sun rise. Then they had something nice to eat, then Gildred gave the ponies a nice drink at the spring, and then they went home.”

*Bob Jopling, Village History Group*

N.B. The children’s account does not make it clear that Oswald’s church was not our present Priory. It was the church that stood on the same spot before it. The Normans would have built over it for their own much grander church a century or so later.

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## ***Why is there no printed magazine this month?***

Once again we have been unable to print a St Bees News because of lock down restrictions. While Printpoint are still working and would have delivered magazines to the current editor, the problem would have been the house to house distribution. For obvious reasons this was not considered to be either wise or even legal.

The magazine has however been produced and as always, a version appears on the village web site -

<https://www.stbees.org.uk/home/village/published-booklets/st-bees-news/>

If you know anyone who is unable to view it on-line, and you have a printer, please consider printing a copy for them. The on-line version is laid out in a way to make this easy. Just print it out back on front, flipping the paper on the short side. This will produce a magazine with the pages in the right order.

Hopefully we will be able to publish and distribute a magazine next month.

## ***St Bees WI News***

I do hope you have all had a safe Christmas and New Year. I think I speak for everyone; we are all glad to see the back of 2020, a year that has affected the whole world in every aspect. The terrible loss of life and hospitalisation of many, due to Covid-19, not seeing our loved ones, job losses and furlough schemes, school closures, being unable to travel, plus several lockdowns, everyone has suffered in one way or another.

As the current licenced vaccines roll-out through the community, it will not be long until we are invited for our jabs. These vaccines will be the passport to freedom, safety and a new normality, for us, our families, friends, neighbours, community and the wider world. The scientists have done such amazing work, in a short space of time, helping mankind to control and eventually defeat thisretched virus. Looking to the future, I am hopeful, in our small corner of West Cumbria that St Bees WI will be up and running at some point during the late Spring, although, at the time of writing this article, I cannot say when exactly. In the meantime, continue to stay safe, and as we look ahead, things will get better over the forthcoming months. For further details on St Bees WI, please see our website [www.St-Bees-WI/facebook](http://www.St-Bees-WI/facebook) or contact Roxanne on Tel: 823137.

## ***St Bees Village School***

We hope that everyone is keeping safe and wish everyone all the best in these difficult times. Due to the National Lockdown the Village School is only open at the moment to children of key workers; the remainder of pupils are doing remote learning. We would like to thank teachers for their hard work and parents for their continuous support.

## ***What's On at the Priory in February***

Not a lot, to be honest! The Priory is closed for all public worship and for private prayer, until further notice – due to the rapid spread of the Covid mutation this year. However, online Sunday services will be livestreamed at 10.30 a.m. as from 31 January.

Apart from the monthly PCC zoom meetings, no Priory organisations or societies are meeting. Many regulars are missing Pop-In, our social drop-in centre, and are encouraged to keep phoning each other for sympathy and support (but no tea, coffee or cakes for now!).

900 Years Celebrations are still on hold for the foreseeable future, alas! One project is in hand and continues when possible – the Anniversary banner by the Embroidery Group. At present they cannot meet, as social distancing is difficult. As the late Vera Lynn sang – “We’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when – but I know we’ll meet again, some sunny day!”

February Lent services – you will be informed on the Priory website, or by parish email of these :- Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday 17 February; the Lent course shared with Crosslacon Mission Community; and the Fairtrade Service on Sunday 28 February.

## ***Over 60s***

The over 60s committee would like to wish our members a Happy New Year and hope you are all keeping well and managing to cope with our present situation. I know we are all looking forward to getting back to some form of normality in the future; until then keep communicating with each other, as a phone call can make all the difference to how someone is feeling. Hope to see you all soon.

## ***Zoom Meetings - Are you ready?***

Many of you will have heard of Zoom meetings. Some of you will have found them a way to keep in touch with family and friends. Many more, who are having to work from home may well be sick of them! Some of you may find a need but not know how to go about using it. This brief guide will help you if you are in that group.

Zoom is a way for many people to communicate by audio and vision using their computers, laptops or tablets. It does not cost anything, unless you want the premium program (or App) which no one other than businesses are likely to need.

You can learn all you want about it here -

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

By far the easiest way to install and use it is for someone already on Zoom to invite you to a Zoom meeting. They will send you an invite by email. Clicking on that link will lead you to a Zoom installation screen and then connect you. Just follow the on screen instructions. Once Zoom is installed, any future “Zoom meetings” will just require you to enter the meeting password.



## *Grassroots*

**Congratulations** to Sophie and Tom of The Crofts on the arrival of Noah.

**Farewell and best wishes** to Charles Yule who has emigrated from Abbey Farm to his daughter's home in Germany. We wish to thank him for his many tasks around the Priory – unobtrusively and quietly contributing to the work of the church. He was involved in the strongarm team furniture-shifting jobs, bellringing, the Grounds mowing squad (Holy Mowers!), and the vicarage walled garden team. His work was much appreciated and his dry wit such a delight.

**Hannah Todhunter**, who lives on The Crofts, completed a posting in Gibraltar with the Royal Navy and then moved on to Queen Elizabeth 2nd aircraft carrier carrying out commissioning trials. She completed her posting on the carrier in mid-October 2020. She is now posted at Worthy Down Winchester at a tri-services base instructing new recruits. She is enjoying her new role.

**Leslie Polley**—It is with great sadness that Leslie Polley of Highstile, Egremont Road, St Bees passed away on Friday 4 December 2020. Burial took place at St.Bartholomew church at Loweswater on Friday 18 December. Les has lived in the village since 1972. He will be greatly missed by his wife Louise van Cappellen. Thank you to friends and neighbours for their kind condolences.

**Sincere thanks** to all friends, families and societies in St Bees parish and beyond, who sent their Christmas messages in the December magazine. You all helped to raise a wonderful total of £600 – that's £520 for Priory funds and £80 for the Children's Society. Thank you all for your generosity and support.

**Welcome** to John Benson of 7 The Crofts.

**DIY Christingle Celebrations** for St Bees Village School – Thanks to Rev. Becky's initiative and the work of her 16 Priory volunteers, exactly 198 DIY Christingle packs were assembled and delivered to the Village Primary School – to be taken home and created by the school families - following Becky's instructions and her Facebook video. The School was very grateful for the packs and many families enjoyed watching the Christingle service on the day, or later. Thank you to all the helpers and buyers.

**Multi-Charities Second Sale and Art Exhibition/Sale** - this extra Gift Sale and Art Exhibition was a great success raising £1,050 for various charities and for local artists. The organisers – Carole Woodman, Deb Lee, Rosalie McAndrew and Chris Robson would like to thank all those who contributed to this amazing success, with sincere thanks to all the charity stall-holders for their commitment. Special thanks to Rev. Richard Lee for delivering countless boxes of Traidcraft and Fairtrade goods to Old College Hall. Much appreciated also was the scene-shifting of tables, chairs and artboards by the Heave-Ho team of Chris, Colin, David, Frank, and Jack – we couldn't have done it without you! We are delighted to announce that the first Multi-Charities Sale early in November before lockdown raised over £4,000 – a fantastic total, more than ever before!

## *A BIG thank you from Fairtrade*

Over 2020 you spent £8,000 at the Multi-charity Sale, Egremont Market Fairtrade stall and other local Traidcraft stalls. Amazing! Half of this was spent in the last 3 months, reflecting people's desire to buy local and fair for Christmas. This means you have contributed to many farmer and artisan co-operatives receiving the Fairtrade premium, which they have used to protect the vulnerable in their communities, as well as providing health and education facilities and important things like soap. We were also able to provide plenty of festive treats to the Food bank and a hamper for Calderwood house.

Did you know that 10-15% of our food is grown by smallholder farmers in the developing world? Key workers, keeping our shelves stocked despite the increasing challenges they face. According to the latest UN forecasts, more than half a billion people could be pushed deeper into poverty by the effects of the pandemic. However, with your support over 1.7 million farmers and workers are able to protect themselves from the worst effects of the pandemic. A huge thank you!

We hope you will come and support the Special Egremont Fairtrade Fortnight Market on Friday March 5. Contact Deb Lee [lee535877@aol.com](mailto:lee535877@aol.com), 01946 823470.

### ***Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 February to 7 March 2021***

2020 has been a hard year. For many of us, dear friends have died, we have felt isolated, lonely and afraid and have missed the company of those we love most. Imagine all that but also no soap, no clean water, little food, no school and increasing debt. That, is what is like for so many of our world neighbours, not just in a pandemic but all the time.

That's why each year during Fairtrade Fortnight, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid. In Bangladesh it can take a labourer 3 years of indentured work to repay a £9 loan. Farmers and workers in the global south, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected.

You have the power to drive long-term change with your shopping choices. You can change one regular item you buy to a Fairtrade one, in the knowledge that this ensures that the communities of these producers will be able to invest in health, education and welfare support through Fairtrade premium, as well as deal with the challenges posed by climate change. Throughout the pandemic, many Fairtrade co-operatives have used the Fairtrade premium funds to protect the most vulnerable in their communities. The evidence is that communities part of the Fairtrade system survived the pandemic better than those without this support. Choosing Fairtrade has been a real lifeline last year.

300,000 people signed petitions to support the cocoa and sugar farmers when Nestle stopped using Fairtrade ingredients in their KitKat bars. Why not buy Divine chocolate instead, it is half owned by the West African cocoa farmer and it tastes great too!

Play your part in making the world better and join the 28% of folk who plan to start buying fair trade in 2021 You can support the Special Fairtrade Farmers' Market at Egremont Town Hall on Friday 5 March 9.30-12.30. Visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or ask Deb 823470, [lee535877@aol.com](mailto:lee535877@aol.com) for a list of the Fairtrade products she stocks and can deliver to you.