

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Canon 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 Holy Communion - 10.30 am

2nd and 4th Sundays Morning Worship - 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

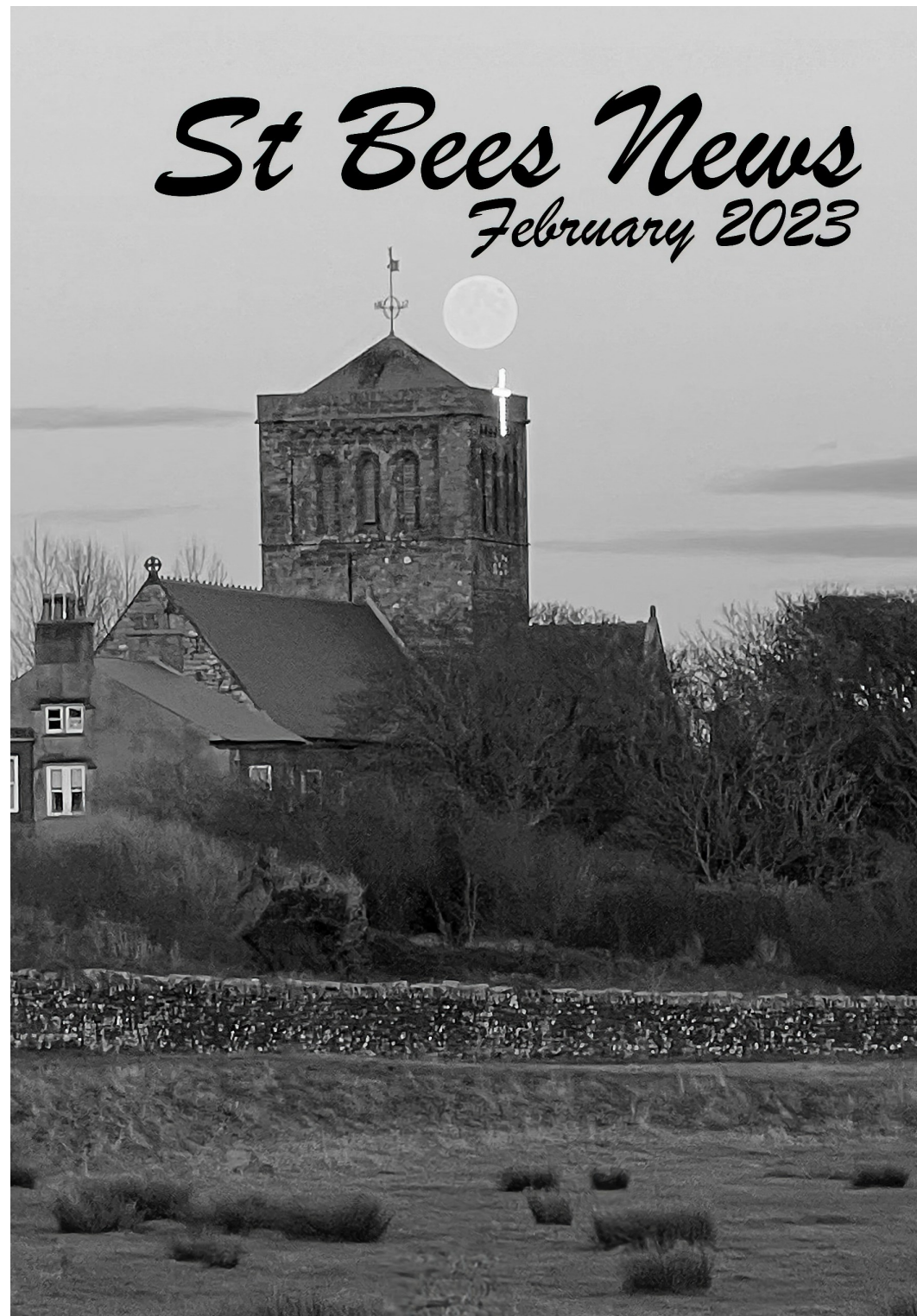
This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs. However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

Circulation - over 1,000 households in St Bees Parish

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305



ABC missing? Yes, I had to drop it as I needed extra page with all the material you submitted.

Back soon!

Ed

Calendar for February

5	Sunday	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion, Priory Evensong, Priory
7	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Seagalls meeting, Seacote Hotel
8	Wednesday		March Magazine Copydate
11	Saturday	5.00 pm	Fun Beetle Drive, Village Hall
12	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Priory
13	Monday	7.30 pm	St Bees W.I., Marion Clarke's Talk, Seacote
14	Tuesday	7.00 pm	PCC meeting, NCH
16	Thursday	1.00 - 2.30 pm	Beach Clean, Meet at Lifeboat Station
17	Friday	9.30 - 12.30 pm	Farmers Market, Egremont Market Hall
19	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Priory
20	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
21	Tuesday	11am to 2pm 7.30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party, NCH Priory Paddock Support Group, NCH
22	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday service, Priory
25	Saturday	2 to 4 pm	Green Future Clothes Swap, Adams Pavilion
26	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Priory
27	Sunday	9.00 am 10.30 am	Family Story Service, Priory Morning Worship, Priory
March			
3	Friday	9.30 - 12.30	Special Farmers' Market for Fair Trade Fortnight, Market Hall, Egremont
4	Saturday	12 to 2pm 5 to 7.00pm	First Lent Lunch, NCH Family Film Night, Priory (Friends of Priory event)

Claiming dates:

Lent Midweek Communion start on Thursdays as from 23 February at 9.45 am

Editor – March 2023 Magazine

The **March issue** of St Bees News will be edited by Anthony Payne, Croeso, 83a Main Street, St Bees, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Wednesday 8th February** please.

Email - payne.croeso@btinternet.com Tel. 01946 822637.

Vintage vehicles of all shapes and sizes gathered in St Bees for the Boxing Day Tractor Trundle organised by the West Cumbria Vintage Club. The annual trundle raised £400 for St Bees RNLI. Volunteers from St Bees RNLI handed out tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches. Donations from the welcome refreshments raised a further £390.

During the event St Bees RNLI heard the sad news that Ted Biggins had recently died. He set up the Boxing Day tractor trundle back in 1982 starting with eleven tractors. In later years there have been up to seventy taking part. Over the years Ted has helped raise around £2800 for St Bees RNLI from the annual tractor Trundle. Ted will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him, especially family and those in the WCVC.

St Bees RNLI seeks new recruits

St Bees RNLI is looking for volunteers to join the existing team in the roles of either Inshore Lifeboat Crew or Deputy Launch Authority (DLA).

AS CREW - help us save lives at sea by ensuring that our lifeboats are in a state of permanent readiness and crewing the lifeboat on service and exercise, under the command of the Helm.

What you will be doing - Undertake training and maintain competence under the Competency Framework as necessary to fulfil the role of crew member; be on call for lifeboat 'shouts'; attend exercises & contribute to the overall upkeep of the station, lifeboats and equipment.

What you need for this role - Team player; good communicator; general fitness; ability to learn new skills; live or work within close proximity of the station and be between 17 and 55 years of age.

AS DLA - carrying out the day to day management of the lifeboat station to ensure a permanent state of readiness for service.

What you will be doing - Authorise launch of the lifeboats; provide leadership in the absence of the Lifeboat Operations Manager or as delegated; ensure that all operational activities are carried out to maintain the lifeboats and all associated equipment in a constant state of readiness for launching on service.

What you need for this role - Team player; good communicator; leadership skills; local maritime knowledge; IT literate (desirable); knowledge of the RNLI (desirable)

What's in it for you - Join an inclusive and diverse organisation; have fun, meet new people and join a motivated and enthusiastic team who are making a difference; learn skills and gain experience to enhance your CV; gain the satisfaction of giving back; training to fulfil your volunteer role will be provided and reasonable out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit [St Bees RNLI Facebook](#) and email their details to st_bees@rnli.org.uk subject: **recruitment CREW** or **recruitment DLA**

"I am not a night owl or an early bird...I am some form of permanently exhausted pigeon". (Internet meme, source unknown)

The desert waits, ready to let us know who we are— the place of self-discovery.

And while we fear, and rightly, the loneliness and emptiness

and harshness, we forget the angels, whom we cannot see for our blindness,

but who come when God decides that we need their help;

when we are ready for what they can give us. – Ruth Burgess, Bread of Tomorrow

What gets you up in the morning? I am neither a night owl or an early bird and often the only thing that gets me out of bed in the morning is the thought of breakfast. I absolutely love sleep and I love my bed but I love breakfast more. You may be wondering, but is she not a Vicar, surely the love of God and God's people should be enough to get her out of bed in the morning? You are right but I am a work in progress. And all is not completely lost, my love of God, and God's people, is often what stops me from simply crawling back into bed with my breakfast and staying there.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

We've already established that my first thought is of breakfast. Aware that my priorities may be slightly askew I programmed my phone with a phrase to get my head in a better place when the alarm attempts to wake me in the morning. Whilst scrabbling to swipe the screen so that the irritating noise will stop, I notice my mantra, "What will love look like today?" OK, I think, love begins with breakfast but it doesn't stop there.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

It may be that for you mornings are a joy, eager to start the day you are up before the sun and are out with the dog before breakfast, enjoying the first birdsong of the day, taking photos of the beach at sunrise. Or it may be that you struggle even more than I do to leave your bed and face the day. Either way, something drives you on, something or someone makes you do life. It might be earning money to pay the bills, caring for someone who can't manage without you or making plans for world domination.

What is your goal in life?

We will soon be entering the season of Lent. A time when Christians remember the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. During that time Jesus worked out who he was and what got him out of bed in the morning. For forty days there was no breakfast, lunch or dinner. When tempted to turn stones into bread he responded "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matt 4, NRSVA) After being tempted three times "angels came and waited on him". I like to think they brought him breakfast.

May you know a blessed and holy wilderness time this Lent,

With love from Reverend Becky

Priory News

Christmas Services in the Priory – were beautiful and well-attended ceremonies with wonderful choral carols, lifting spirits in uncertain times. Special thanks to organisers, Rev. Becky and clergy, our organist and choir. All much appreciated by congregation and those viewing online.

The Christingle & Crib service was held on Christmas Eve and much enjoyed by the many families there. Thanks to all the collection raised £300 for the Children's Society and their Christmas Appeal. Huge Thanks to Corinne and Gemma & children for their busy work preparing the Christingles.

Christmas Tree Festival service – held for the first time with the blessing of the trees and all those organisations represented, celebrated with the enthusiastic accompaniment of the Village Orchestra. Many grateful thanks to Alison Morris and Frank Bowler, and the full family orchestra.

Sincere Thanks to all who decorated the Priory so beautifully for Christmas – to the team of Pete & Nat Seex, Rosalie and Joan's friend Carolyn for decorating the tree, and to Jack Hale, Pete & Natalie installing the tree in position. More thanks to those dismantling the tree after Twelfth Night – Colin Wadey, Jack and David Hope. Decorative stars were added to the tree at the tree festival service by the congregation in memory of loved ones. Thankyou to the children at the Crib service setting the scene in the Nativity stable with figures and animals.

Special Thanks to even higher-level engineers – to David Kennedy and Jack Hale hoisting the illuminated cross onto the belfry tower- a dazzling sight shining over the village, impervious to storms! Thanks too to Doug Sim for floodlighting the Priory for the festive season, in place until Candlemas – a beacon to guide visitors on dark winter nights!

Christmas Gifts under the Christmas Tree – Thank you everyone for your kind and thoughtful gifts to our senior St Beghians locally and in Care Homes - delighted to be remembered and visited.

Priory Paddock Support Group

A meeting will be held in New College Hall on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30 p.m. to organise a formal Support Group for Priory Paddock.

The Paddock is the village's own Wildflower Garden and nature conservation site, with a pond, woodland and wildflower areas. Everybody interested in its future conservation is cordially invited to this meeting to establish a formal Support Group, necessary to access grant funding, and to discuss the coming season.

Neil Bettinson 22 Main Street St.Bees 01946 823997

St Bees WI News

Happy New Year to all our members and supporters. Thankyou to our craft group for the WI Christmas Tree which was displayed along with all the other trees in the Priory, a wonderful show of Trees from across our lovely Community. Our WI ladies enjoyed a Christmas evening meal, thankyou to the Manor House St Bees.

Our first event of the New Year was a change from the one advertised, we welcomed Sue Philips 'Social History Through Photography'. Sue has made a hobby of Photography, and aims to take a photo every day, landscape, wildlife, family and friends, pets and many other things that catch her eye, which have been made up into photo albums from across the years which were shared with our members. Many of her photos evoked memories for our ladies of places we all had visited and provided much conversation. Sue is a very talented photographer and we were privileged to have her visit our WI and share with us her wonderful collection of photos captured with love on her camera. For a January evening, we had a really good turn out of members and visitors, thankyou all for venturing out on a dark winter evening. This was followed by Raffle and Refreshments.

Our next meeting is Monday February 13th 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel, 'From Hill Farm to Buckingham Palace and Beyond – My Life and the WI', by Marion Clarke. Marion is a local lady and WI Member from Gosforth, who has had a very interesting life, from growing up on a farm and being a life long member of the WI. Do come along and Meet Marion who will give a very honest, entertaining and enjoyable talk, not to be missed! New members very welcome, just turn up on the night, visitors £4.

Help in tracing the Kenworthy family

Jim Wrigley at High House Farm has received the following note from Bill Dixon, who used to live in Egremont but long ago emigrated to America.

Maybe someone can help. My name is Bill Dixon and I used to live at Scurgill Egremont. In 1991 I moved with my wife and family to San Diego California. When we moved I brought with me a book called "A Fisherman's Philosophy" which contains correspondence and many newspaper clippings from around the 1930s, as well as some original sketches. When we lived at Scurgill the next door neighbour, Mrs Herdman, used to housekeep for the Kenworthy family in St Bees. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Kenworthys I would like to return the book. Interestingly, although the book is mainly about fishing there is also a chapter about the Palomar Observatory here in San Diego.

If you can put Bill Dixon in touch with a successor to the 1930s Kenworthys you can contact him directly by email at billdixon22@cox.net, or by text/phone +1 619 997 9893. Or you can go via Jim Wrigley at jscswrigley@aol.com or 01946 822591.

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From the Priory Registers: Christian Funeral

8 December Janet Cottrell (Jan) Fairwinds, Outrigg Close, St Bees
10 December Dorothy Warbrick 10 Abbots Way, St Bees
19 December Margaret Marshall Shaunessy, Nethertown Road, St Bees
21 December Dorothy Smith Whinrigg, Nethertown Road, St Bees
9 January Joan Sanderson, Harbour View Care Home, formerly of Sandwith

May you rest in peace and may the Lord's blessing be upon you and your families.

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family and friends mourning the sad loss of Dorothy Warbrick who died peacefully at home after time in hospital. Dorothy was much loved and well-known to all as a dedicated social worker, a caring and loving friend, offering generous and welcoming hospitality with her dear husband John. They were always an inspiring force for good, in the Priory or Scouting, devoted to their family, young people and the community. Always remembered with love and gratitude. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Warbrick and Wadsworth families in their loss.

Sincere Sympathy is offered to the family and friends of Dorothy Smith who passed away at home in her sleep. Dorothy and Ralston (Rolly) were devoted church members for many years and pre-covid Dorothy attended regularly and was a leading light in the Priory Embroidery Group. After gaining her Embroiderers' Guild award along with Irene Palmer, she masterminded many beautiful creations in the Priory – the Millennium wallhanging above the altar being an outstanding work of art by the Group. She was so thrilled to see the nearly completed 900th Anniversary Banner before Christmas, when she visited with her daughter, after months of frailty but with updates from the Group. We keep her family – Rolly, her daughter Carol and son David and their families in our prayers.

In Memoriam Dorothy Warbrick

The family of the late **Dorothy Warbrick** (who died peacefully at her home on 22nd November 2022) would like to thank everyone for their cards, good wishes, help and support since her passing. They would also like to thank Rev Anne Baker for leading a moving Cremation Service and Rev Becky Gibbs and Canon Trevor Park for their beautiful contributions to the service of thanksgiving for her life in December. They would also like to thank all who contributed to her favourite charities of 'Amnesty International' and 'West Cumbria Hospice at Home' where over £1,700 was raised, and to those who contributed to the Priory church in the collection plates.

Dorothy loved living in St Bees, she had many dear friends here and involved herself in many aspects of village and Church life since moving to the village in 1965. She will be sorely missed but will live on in cherished memories by many, and particularly by her children David and Janet, their partners Jackie and Peter, and her four Grandchildren: Natasha, Conor, Sylvia and Alana.

David Warbrick

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Village School News

We've had a great start to the Spring term, welcoming all our children back to school in the new year. They have settled in very quickly and are working hard in what will be a very busy term with exciting visits and events coming up over the next few months.

We are thrilled that our VSA is starting up again with their first meeting having already taken place. Every parent is automatically a member and it would be wonderful if as many parents as possible could support the new team and see how you can help enhance the children's experiences through the work of the VSA.

We have started the new term with a bang, having an outdoor education expert advisor visit school to support us in developing our extensive outdoor areas. Our aim is to enhance children's experiences at school by increasing opportunities for learning outdoors as well as developing their skills and knowledge about nature, wildlife, our environment, how we can nurture these and look after them for ourselves and future generations. Our plans include three phases:

- Develop a natural boundary of hedging and small fruit/nut bearing trees around school that will attract wildlife;
- Develop a small orchard and vegetable patch on an unused part of our field for school and community use and
- Establish planted seating areas around school for the community use.

In addition, we are creating a wilding area on our bottom fenced field which will also house a memorial garden for the village school and village community to place items in memory of loved ones as well as a sensory area by the wooden gazebo. We are going to develop this to support our Early Years outdoor provision, curriculum provision throughout school and provide children with a space to develop and shape themselves. We will keep you up to date with our progress as we move forward with our plans and would be hugely grateful of any help and support throughout the project.

Following our achievement of the Philosophy for Children (P4C) Bronze award last year, we have embarked on the Silver Award this term. We are delighted to continue to be part of the programme and are looking forward to continuing to develop and strengthen children's critical, collaborative, creative & caring thinking skills throughout the project.

Our application to join Changing Lives Learning Trust (formerly West Lakes Multi-Academy Trust) is underway and we are hoping to hear from the DfE as to whether or not we have been successful by the end of this half term.

We are currently accepting applications to our Nursery class which are filling up fast, with a waiting list for the following academic year already started. We look forward to meeting all our new starters when the time comes. If you know anyone who is looking for a place please ask them to call the main office for a pack as the closing date is fast approaching and spaces are very limited.

Thank you for your continued support.

Emma Sharp. Head teacher

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Grassroots

Magazine Christmas Greetings – Sincere Thanks to all friends, families and societies in St Bees and beyond, who sent Christmas messages and donations via the December magazine. You all helped to raise a wonderful total of £465.00 for the Priory Church and the Children's Society.

Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday - To be held in New College Hall on Tuesday 21st February 11.00am to 2.00pm. All welcome. Sweet and savoury pancakes served, with lots of different fillings to choose from. Cost £3 (includes drink). Children £1. Bring & Buy Stall too at Pancake Day. Funds raised to go to UNICEF for their work with Ukrainian children. Do come and enjoy!

Family Film Night 'Frozen 2' – for Saturday 4th March in the Priory from 5.00 to 7.00 pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult please. Refreshments available. We are currently fundraising for new tarmac parking at the entrance to the church, when the collapsed wall has been finally rebuilt, so donations to Friends of the Priory will be much appreciated. All welcome to come along for our Film Night!

Village Hall Events

A Fun Beetle Drive !! 5.00 pm - Saturday 11 February

Pizza - Raffle - Bar *For all ages*

Adults £6 Youngsters £3, Family (up to 4) £15 .

Tickets only from Claire Hale - 07740 717481

If you haven't been to one before then come along and enjoy yourselves

Oddfellows Arms bingo evening raises £1000 for Time to Share

Ashley, Kay and Cathryn (the Directors) of Time to Share Bereavement Services sincerely thank everyone who organised, attended and contributed towards the fundraising Bingo held in the Oddfellows Arms on 12th November 2022.

The amazing sum of £1000.00 that was raised on that Saturday evening will be used to support bereaved children and their families in Copeland.

Margaret Morgan

Parish Council & Climate Change

At the December meeting of St Bees Parish Council it was resolved to set up a Climate Change Working Group. This group will include Parish Councillors, as well as community members. The group will initially work through the Parish Council Climate Change Toolkit to identify further actions we can take as a community to work towards a sustainable future. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Amy Linton (amylinton1983@gmail.com).



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Seagalls

Our last meeting of the year was on the 1st December at the Manor House where we had our Christmas party.

It was well attended and we enjoyed a festive meal and drinks. The service at the Manor House was excellent, so many thanks to them.

The party rounded off a memorable and well attended year with our number of members seeming to increase.

Many thanks to Judith Bragg, Nina Borwell and anyone else involved with the organisation.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th February at 7pm at the Seacote.

All are welcome

Julie Kelly

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award (volunteering section)

Over the last three months I have been involved in a project called 'The Big Seaweed Search' for the 'Natural History Museum and Marine Conservation Society'.

I wanted to volunteer for an environmental project that was going to provide a national benefit and I wanted to share with you my experience of being part of such an important environmental input.

The purpose of the project was to provide data to help monitor the effects of the environmental change on Britain's sea life by exploring the seashore and recording the living seaweeds that I have found.

The recording of seaweeds is very important to support the research on three key environmental issues: rising sea temperature, the arrival and spread of non-native species of seaweeds, ocean acidification - the sea becoming more acidic because of absorbing carbon dioxide from the air

So what did I do?

I attended St Bees beach weekly at low tide times

Selected an area where seaweed was present on hard structures such as rocks, sea walls

Surveyed the area - identified and took photographs of the different types of seaweed

Recorded the information and photographs gained on the survey website

The most common seaweed I have found was knotted wrack and bladder wrack on St Bees beach.

The results of the seaweed search will help to map the seaweed distribution on the British shores which is vital information to help provide an understanding of the impact of climate change, ocean acidification and non-native seaweed on our shores. It will take time to pick up change but this information is helping to gain invaluable baseline information.

Harrison Baker

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<https://www.stbeesschool.co.uk/sports-and-facilities/swimming-pool/>

St Bees School

Studying at St Bees Sixth Form

Post 16 education is an important step and one that needs to be considered carefully. It is the time when you choose the subjects that lead to university life or

the world of employment and paves the way for your future.

At St Bees School, we are different: we are small, deliberately so, and this allows young adults to develop with academic and pastoral guidance and increasing self-assuredness, to success, as studies develop. The aim is to make the Sixth Form journey an experience of achievement that you remember and that empowers you with the skills needed for your future.

Our Sixth Form cohort is comprised of the Pre-A Level group (an international focused class where students follow a fast-track IGCSE programme, with enhanced EAL lessons), in addition to Year 12 and Year 13. This year, we have over 30 students - and we can honestly say that each and every individual is a credit unto themselves - and to us.

As Head of Sixth Form, and supported by my fellow Tutors, Mr Beach and Mrs Gan, our aim is to provide a tool kit, an infrastructure and an inspirational space and opportunity for each student to be successful - whatever you choose to do after life at St Bees.

The Sixth Form has expanded astronomically - and we now have additional online resources to make all students' experiences better, whilst continuing with all of the structure that has created such an enviable academic success so far.

The independence you will gain from being part of the Sixth Form student group will undoubtedly prepare you for success. Not only will you gain academically, but through our international cohort, you will form lifelong friendships and create unforgettable memories and experiences.

If you feel that what we offer here is of interest and that you have the skill set we are seeking then we encourage anyone interested to come and look round – meet our students, our staff - and discover a place where you can truly be yourself.

Read more at stbeesschool.co.uk/sixthform

Andrew Keep, Head of Sixth Form

Priory Flower Rota for February

5 Claire Summers

12 Rosalie McAndrew

19 Carole Smith

26 Lent - No flowers

Grateful thanks to all our arrangers and donors to the Flower Fund – and to Pat Crichton for her beautiful Christmas arrangements in the Priory. The church looked glorious!

Friends of the Priory Report

Apologies from the Friends for the cancellation of the planned Priory Singers Concert, sadly due to fewer singers being available for the choir. The mulled wine and mince pies were much enjoyed after the Carol Service! The good news is that the Friends entered a Christmas tree in the Tree Festival, featuring loudspeakers representing the many speakers in our lectures and talks over the years. Many thanks to all our members and supporters of events in 2022 – for your subscriptions and donations. The Friends newsletter has been sent out/mailed to all members with a reminder for the increased subscription this January – to £10 per member; and £15 per couple/family. Payable to Treasurer Norman Killip (see back page of the parish mag) – by BACS, cheque or cash.

St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fayre 2022

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Tree Festival by either providing and decorating a tree, visiting, voting or donating. The trees were absolutely stunning - all unique and so innovative; the Priory looked beautiful during December and the trees were admired by many visitors.

The votes (over 400!) have been counted and I am delighted to announce that the winners of the Priory Christmas Tree Festival 2022 are as follows:

1st- St Bees Green Future/ Litter Champions, 2nd- Carl Sharpe Roofing, 3rd- RNLI
St Bees Green Future/Litter Champions received £50 as their prize money; this will be put to good use for both groups enabling them to fund future projects which will benefit the whole village community.

Thanks also must go to all those who helped make the Christmas Fayre such a huge success - Egremont Town Band, craft stall holders and especially to the refreshments team (and cake providers) who had rather a busy afternoon! Between the Christmas Tree Festival and the Christmas Fayre we made a fantastic £650.70! This money will be shared between Hospice at Home West Cumbria and St Bees Priory Church.

It's never too early to be thinking about Christmas 2023, so here are the proposed dates for this year (please note - dates have been changed from 2/3rd December due to Advent)

Saturday 9th December 2023- Tree Festival entries up in the Priory

Sunday 10th December 2023- Launch of the Tree Festival and Christmas Fayre

As with all events, your feedback is always welcome - please email sarahgeorge.bees@gmail.com if you have any comments or ideas for future events.

Wishing you all the best for the year ahead and looking forward to lighting up the Priory again in December 2023!

Sarah George

Christmas Past

Far too often, the Editor's deadline for this page catches up with me before I've anything to say. That's not so this month, however, for several kind folk have asked me to repeat here something from the Priory's Christmas Tree Festival.

It is not always remembered that during the War Years Christmas trees were rather frowned upon. They did nothing for the War Effort, and no labour or transport could be spared for something so merely frivolous. Worse, some people even supposed a German connection, for the idea of bringing decorated trees indoors had begun with Victoria's husband Prince Albert. Locally-sourced holly and ivy might be a different matter.

Late in 1941 two middle-aged ladies were directed to war-work in a Chivers jam factory near Cambridge. They talked together as they graded the fruit. One said how much her little great-niece Thelma would be missing by never having a tree to decorate at the centre of her Christmas.

Next morning the other arrived at work with a little artificial tree in her bicycle basket. At less than a foot high, it was shabby and bare in places, and clearly the coming Christmas would be far from the first it had known. But, the lady said, she would like little Thelma to have the tree to care for until the day of Victory finally arrived, and real trees indoors could be part of Christmas again.

And that is what happened. On every one of over eighty more Christmas mornings that shabby little tree has had a place of honour in Thelma's home. A poor heirloom, some will think, and quite without value, but while its story is remembered I believe it will go on appearing as an annual reminder of one kind wartime act.

(Bob Jopling

Village History Group)

Bob Jopling. Village History Group

St Bees Green Future

Would you like to save money on clothing? Would you like to declutter and update your wardrobe? Would you like to help the planet? If the answer to any of these is "yes", come along to our next clothes swap.

Join us on Saturday 25th February, 2 till 4pm, in the Pavilion at Adams Recreation Ground. Admission is £4, which includes refreshments and as many items as you would like to take away.

Please bring your clothes and accessories along to the start of the event. Clothes in all styles and for all ages are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Amy Linton



Parish Council News

Beach Cleans- The next organised beach clean is on Thursday 16th February, 1 till 2.30pm, meeting at the Lifeboat Station. Litter pickers and gloves are available to borrow. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees beach clean.

Flooding & Drainage – Several areas in the parish were badly affected by flooding and drainage problems during the heavy rain on New Year's Eve. There was a lengthy discussion of the issues at the January Parish Council meeting and our County Councillor is working with officers from Cumbria County Council to try to find solutions to prevent a recurrence. Highways officers believe that the problems are not simply due to the drains being unable to cope with the volume of surface water falling on the road but that in many areas the problems are caused wholly or partly by run-off from the adjacent land. Landowners are under a legal obligation to take steps to prevent soil running off on to the highway and Cumbria Highways are talking to landowners about their responsibilities. This is unlikely to bring an immediate solution and the Parish Council will continue to press for improvements to the aged infrastructure to avoid future problems.

Budget & Precept- The Parish Council approved its budget for 2023/24 at its December meeting. As household budgets are under pressure at the moment, the Parish Council has tried to keep its precept increase as low as possible, raising it by £2000 to £54000. It is likely that this will increase the charge on a Band D property by around 5p per week.

Roads & Potholes – There are a large number of deep potholes on the village roads which have been made worse by recent heavy rain. Cumbria Highways are aware of the problems and the Parish Council hopes that these will be repaired as soon as possible. We have been told that Highways will be carrying out patching on Beach Rd in early March and will create an opening in the wall alongside the road to make it easier for pedestrians crossing to/from the path to the Beach estate.

Signage – New signage is to be put in place at the top of Sea Mill Lane to warn drivers that it is a narrow cul de sac with a low bridge.

Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will take place on MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. All council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

The Priory perspective



You may have read recently in the press about the Church of England and same-sex marriage. For what it's worth I personally support equal marriage. I feel incredibly sorry for all those who want to get married in church but are barred from doing so because of their sexuality. It seems very unjust. The church is divided on this issue but it is my prayer that we care deeply for one another whilst we speak boldly. I want to resist the temptation to be part of a "blame game" or go into battle with those who hold opposing views. At the same time, I want all those who are deeply hurt, especially those who are LGBTQI+ to know that I will advocate for them as best I can. Archbishop Welby said on Wednesday: *"I am under no illusions that what we are proposing today will appear to go too far for some and not nearly far enough for others, but it is my hope that what we have agreed will be received in a spirit of generosity, seeking the common good."*

*"Most of all I hope it can offer a way for the Church of England, publicly and unequivocally, to say to **all Christians and especially LGBTQI+ people that you are welcome and a valued and precious part of the body of Christ.**"*

Amen to that. Reverend Becky

Please find a prayer below taken from MOSAIC: the movement of Supporting Anglicans for an Inclusive Church

God who delights in us,
 You search us and find us out.
 You love us from the inside.
 Every thought and feeling, uttered and held in silence
 Is known to you and precious to you.
 Dwell within us. Help us discover that you mean us to
 Grow into who we fully are and no other.
 To be real, not to pretend
 To know love – given and received, And to blossom in its liberating power.
 Shelter us in your protective shadow from those who will not accept us,
 Who know us only from the outside.
 Give us the peace that passes
 All misunderstanding, fear and rejection
 Knowing that you alone behold us,
 Desire us, and declare us to be your own. Amen.

The Priory perspective



To read Rev Becky's latest "God For All" update go to www.stbeespriory.org.uk



We will help each other to follow Jesus more closely, seeking to grow as his disciples in all aspects of life, both corporately and as individuals.

- To encourage growing Christian faith.
- To embed a culture of 'whole-life discipleship' (Monday-Saturday as well as Sunday).
- To enable people to encounter and study the Bible, and to explore its application for everyday life.
- To encourage a culture of prayer in different contexts.



We will listen to our local communities, and respond in loving service, seeking to transform injustice, challenge oppression and pursue peace & reconciliation.

- To help churches to listen to their local communities.
- To develop effective partnerships with other groups and organisations.
- To help Christians to be a prophetic voice, challenging unjust structures and systems.
- To equip people to be peace-makers and reconcilers in all spheres of life.



We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways.

- To facilitate giving everyone the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ.
- To equip Christians to speak naturally about their faith.
- To help Christians speak about Christian viewpoints on the important issues of today.
- To enable more connections with under-represented groups in our churches, and to plant new churches and worshipping communities.



We will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

- To develop a biblical understanding of the place of the natural world in God's plans.
- To enable more sustainable ways of using our resources in our churches (including buildings).
- To equip people with practical, everyday ways of living more sustainably.
- To help Christians in expressing a Christian viewpoint on environmental issues.

Activities
for Lent

WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Luke 4:1-13 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

C	J	Y	P	T	N	E	U	T	E	L	P	M	E	T
A	P	I	S	E	K	Z	M	N	C	F	S	P	Y	F
T	O	E	R	Z	X	X	G	E	Q	Q	T	R	X	S
C	T	S	K	A	N	F	Z	T	W	M	O	G	B	W
E	N	L	Q	K	Y	J	Q	T	O	P	N	E	I	M
T	T	E	M	P	T	E	D	I	R	R	E	L	O	I
O	I	G	V	I	R	E	A	R	L	E	D	D	F	T
R	Z	N	K	H	O	Y	E	W	D	E	G	Y	Y	X
P	P	A	O	S	F	V	R	G	R	N	R	T	E	Q
W	M	E	J	R	R	P	B	N	I	O	S	X	H	O
M	Z	S	F	O	Q	M	E	K	L	O	J	B	O	J
M	Z	O	J	W	H	S	M	G	Y	C	D	H	L	E
K	X	G	S	P	S	O	E	Q	D	T	X	O	Y	S
Y	H	N	A	D	R	O	J	E	R	D	V	S	G	U
P	W	V	C	T	I	R	I	P	S	H	L	P	Z	S

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| JESUS | STONE | WRITTEN |
| HOLY SPIRIT | BREAD | TEMPLE |
| JORDAN | KINGDOM | ANGELS |
| WILDERNESS | WORLD | PROTECT |
| FORTY | GLORY | GOD |
| TEMPTED | WORSHIP | TEST |

FOLLOW the PATH

Where did Jesus go immediately after his baptism?
Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter down at the bottom of the page. When you get to the end of the path, see the place Jesus went spelled out below.

