

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:

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 - Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.

.DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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St Bees News

April 2025



St Bees Parish A B C

Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - TBA.	Garden Society	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 07742 440919). Flower Show is held on 3rd Saturday in August.
Aikido club.	Adult martial art classes in St Bees, Mon., Tues. & Thu each week. See www.westcumbriaaikido.com or contact Adrian on 07951 999 192.	History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
Bellringing	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 18 The Crofts. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.	Judo Club	meets regularly at NCH. Contact sankaikunijudo@gmail.com or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
Scouts, Beavers	1st Beckermet & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall 8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections 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 - r.e.rendell@gmail.com , 07977 096426.
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Churchwardens are Deb Lee & Gill Barlow (& 2 Vacancies)	Pop-in Cafe	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel -07840 844424	Pre-School	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.
Electoral Roll	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church	Priory Web Site	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk
Fair Trade	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com	Rangers	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact calderdivision@gmail.com for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.who will explain our Christian Giving system.	Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
First Responders	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497	St Bees Triers	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
Football Association	Contacts - Juniors (U-12) - Aaron with the number 07902311306 .	Village School Association	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 07897 535100 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk .	Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Friends of the Priory	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees,	Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
		Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
		Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. See www.St-Bees-WI-Facebook-pages or contact any member.

Calendar for April 2025_z

1	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Quiz, Hodgett's Village Hall
3	Thursday		Seagalls Afternoon Tea, Stonehouse Farm
5	Saturday	12.00 – 1.30 pm	Lent Lunch, NCH
		7.30 pm	West Cumberland Choral Society Spring Concert
6	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
12	Saturday	12.00 noon – 1.30 pm	Lent Lunch, NCH
		2.00 pm	Easter Surprise, Hodgett's Village Hall
13	Sunday	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Service & Procession
14-	Monday to Wednesday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Children's Music Workshops, 16 Hodgett's Village Hall
15	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Easter Tea, Hodgett's Village Hall
16	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Agape Communion meal
17	Thursday	7.30 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion Oratorio
18	Friday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm	Meditation of Two Hours at the Cross
		5.30 pm	Hour at the Cross for Children & Families
19	Saturday	8.00 pm	Easter Eve Vigil Saturday
20	Sunday	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
27	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		7.30 pm	Anne-Marie Sanderson, Hodgett's Village Hall
29	Tuesday	11.00 am	Over 60's Lakes Centre visit

Our apologies for errors and omissions. Due to technical complications and unforeseen difficulties, this magazine may appear different from the norm.

May Editor

The May issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Amy Linton, Overbeck, Seamill Lane, St Bees** who would like contributions by no later than **Tuesday 8th April** please
Email -amyinton1983@gmail.com Tel. 01946 447614

St Bees News

April 2025

Easter Greetings

Happy Easter everyone. Funny word Easter? Well yes, it is. Although, it is intimately linked with the Christian Celebration of the Resurrection its origin lies with the pagan Anglo – Saxon world view and is derived from the goddess of fertility and Springtime – “Eostre” of course there are many ways of celebrating Easter. One which I am sure is no stranger to St Bees is the making, giving and consuming of cake – Simnel Cake to be precise, a traditional cake from medieval times associated with Mothering Sunday (Laetare) Sunday when the Lenten Fast was relaxed a little. It is a very rich fruit cake with a layer of marzipan in its centre and on top. surmounted by 11 marzipan balls symbolising the 11 Apostles (minus Judas). Similia (Latin) is very fine wheat flour hence Simnel in English. It is a reminder that Easter is a rich time of celebration – not just in Church but throughout the community the church serves. Of course Easter is also a season so in theory you could eat Simnel cake for weeks. However, you celebrate Easter may it be a time of happiness and rejoicing
“Christos Anesti – Anastithike alithina “

The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee. RD

By the time the magazine is printed Deb will have been to a special service at St Martin in the Fields, to be commissioned by the Archbishop of York, as a Trustee on the Worldwide Board of the Mothers Union, representing the Province of York. She will be working with trustees from the 4 other provinces in Britain and 7 from around the world. The board manages the governance and development of an organisation with 4m members across 84 countries! We have already met on zoom 3 times and will meet in person for the commissioning. The aim of the Mothers Union is to support family life. As you know we have a caravan at St Bees offering free holidays and can provide support in other ways to families in need. We are active in campaigning against domestic and other gender based violence, supporting our local refuges and DA charities. For many of us being part of a wave of prayer that circles the globe at midday every day is of great importance. You can support the work of this amazing organisation for less than £30/year by becoming a member. If you want someone to come and speak about what we do, or join contact Deb cdmudp@gmail.com
You can find out more at <https://carlisle-diocesemothersunion.org.uk/>

Priory News

Priory Services for Holy Week & Easter Festival:

Palm Sunday 13th April – Special service & Procession with Palm Crosses for everyone.

Palm Crosses will be distributed to worshippers at Sunday services on that day.

Also Cross Buns & Oranges will be given out to children and teens, and anyone who wishes!

This is in keeping with an ancient tradition, when children were required to say their catechism learned at Sunday School, to be rewarded with ‘bun & orange’.

Holy Week Agape Communion Meal Wednesday 16th April – at 7.00pm. in New College Hall. Please inform Becky or sign up in church if you wish to attend. All welcome.

Maundy Thursday 17th April. There will be a performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion Oratorio with Priory Choir & Friends and invited guest singers, conducted by Margie Simper with Frank Bowler on the organ, on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after the performance and there will be a retiring collection to defray expenses. Do come to hear this ‘Meditation on the Passion of Christ’ including congregational hymns. All welcome.

Good Friday services 18th April in the Priory:

Meditation of Two Hours at the Cross 10.00am to 12 noon – Come & Go as you wish

An Hour at the Cross for Children & Families at 5.30pm. ‘What’s Good about Good Friday?’

Easter Eve Vigil Saturday 19th April at 8.00pm in the Priory – Lighting the Paschal Candle.

Easter Sunday services 20th April at 9.00am, 10.30am and 6.00pm. – Alleluia!

Holy Communion at 9.00am. and 10.30am; Evening Prayer at 6.00pm.

From the Priory Registers

Christian Funeral

17th March Anne Hope (nee Irving) 4 Grindal Place, St Bees

21th March Brian Edwards 13 Seaview, Seamill Lane, St Bees

24th March Tom Milburn Seacote Hotel & Chalet Park, St Bees

May God’s Blessing be upon you and your families.

Flower Rota for April/May

6th April Lent – No flowers 13th April Palm Sunday – Palms

20th April Easter – Pat Crichton 27th April Easter flowers

4th May Dilys Brownrigg 11th May Kay Steele

Parish Council News

Tom Milburn – the Parish Council was saddened to hear of the death of Tom Milburn and sends its condolences to his family. Tom looked after the beach toilets on behalf of the Parish Council for more than 10 years, stepping into the breach when the Parish Council took over the running of the toilets at very short notice after CBC decided to close them. He continued to clean and maintain the toilets daily until just a few months ago. Tom was always supportive of other initiatives of the Parish Council and he will be much missed.

Planning Application for holiday pods – the application for holiday pods on a site on Nethertown Rd was approved by Cumberland Council’s Planning Committee on 19 February. The consultant engaged by the Parish Council spoke against the application but members decided to follow officer’s advice and approve the application with a number of conditions.

Devolution- The government is proposing to create a joint mayoral authority to cover the areas of Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council and is inviting comments from residents. If the proposal goes ahead, the joint authority would have powers delegated by central government in areas such as transport but most services would continue to be provided by the two unitary authorities. The consultation runs until 13 April and the consultation document can be found on the gov.uk website - <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/cumbria-devolution-consultation>


Station car park- the Parish Council is arranging for a contractor to fill a number of potholes which have developed in the car park over the winter. We understand that the damaged wall is to be repaired by Northern Rail.

Dogs on the beach-Current regulations do allow dogs to be off a lead on the beach itself but they must be on a lead on the grassed areas and dogs are not allowed at all on the play area. There have been reports of children being frightened by dogs running loose on the beach so we would ask owners to ensure that their dogs are under close control, particularly when there are children playing.

Noticeboard at Rottington- the Parish Council has agreed to provide a new noticeboard at Rottington after the old noticeboard was damaged beyond repair during recent storms.

Seagull proof refuse sacks –Cumberland Council has a supply of bird proof sacks which can be made available to those who do not have waste bins and rely on refuse bags. The sacks will protect the plastic bags from being damaged by birds/animals. The sacks will be available for collection from the Market Hall in Whitehaven from April.

Anti-social behaviour – There have recently been several reports of antisocial behaviour and minor damage around the village. If anyone sees unacceptable behaviour, please report it to the police so that they have a full picture of what is happening.





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What's On at the Priory in April:

West Cumberland Choral Society Spring Concert 'Stabat Mater' will be presented on Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm in the Priory. The programme includes a selection of spirituals, opera choruses and a Sister Act medley with conductor Margie Simper, accompanist Frank Bowler and a string ensemble. Refreshments served after the concert.

Admission £10, Students £5 and under 18s free.

All are most welcome to come and enjoy our Easter celebration.

Lent Lunches in April

Lent Lunches for our chosen charities continue in April – on Saturdays 5th and 12th April – in NCH from 12 noon to 1.30pm. Do come along to share home-made soup with bread & cheese – in aid of NSPCC and Christian Aid Crisis Appeal in Middle East. Sincere Thanks for all donations to date.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party raised over £150 for Save the Children. Many thanks to Gill Burgess and Pop-In volunteers with Sally Kennedy and her Soroptimist friends. Thanks also to chefs Helen & Mark Kennedy flipping dozens of pancakes!

Update on pen and dental item recycling:

The pen recycling scheme, sponsored by Rymans, has now ended, so we have removed the recycling tub from St Bees Post Office.

The dental item recycling scheme, sponsored by Philips, has also ended, so the recycling tub from outside 61 Main Street has also been removed. You can still recycle toothpaste tubes and electric toothbrush heads via the collection point at Boots in Whitehaven.

Amy Linton#

A new registered AED in St Bees.

Saving a life near you!

St Bees Priory has had an AED for sometime but it is now officially registered on "the Circuit", so that anyone and, importantly, the Ambulance service can guide people to access it in an emergency. The circuit tells folk when the AED is available (8.30-6pm) and whereabouts in the Priory it can be found. The circuit also reminds us when to change the pads and batteries!

The AED is in a well marker cupboard, on your right, as you come into the Priory. There is also a folder with clear instructions as to how to use the AED and resuscitate a child or adult in extremis. NWAS have also offered to come to Pop in to show folk how to use an AED that might save the life of you or a friend!

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Village Hall Events for April and May

The Village Hall offers a varied programme in April, starting with the 'Easter Surprise' afternoon on 12th April at 2.00pm. Norma Halpin, a renowned florist from Barrow-in-Furness, will delight everyone with a splendid flower demonstration. Fair Trade Tea and coffee will be served together with a few dainty cakes at the end.

The village hall is also pleased to host, for the first time, three afternoon sessions of Children's Music Workshops featuring songs from the 60 year old film 'The Sound of Music'. If you didn't manage to register your child/children aged between 7 and 11 years on Friday 28th March and are interested in participating for the sessions on Monday 14th Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th from 2.00pm. - 4.00pm, please contact Eileen Lithgow on 07814646245 or email eileenlithgow@hotmail.com. The final day on Wednesday 16th also incorporates a 'sing along' for all interested adults to join from 3.30pm. – open to all adults who love to sing this wonderful music.

Our very own songstress Anne-Marie Sanderson will take the village hall stage on Sunday 27th April starting at 7.30pm. This is an Arts Out West Show highlighting Anne-Marie's skills in song writing and performance.

On 10th May at 2p.m. we will commemorate the 80th anniversary of V E Day. The highlight of this afternoon will be a film, which will be shown on the village hall television, that was taken 30 years ago to commemorate the 50th anniversary in 1995. This will certainly be a trip down memory lane – it features Rhoda and Philip Bryan cutting the celebration cake at the beginning and 'Vivace' singing war songs and a play, written for the occasion, being brilliantly performed by Fay Crawford and Norman Clarkson. Other items on the agenda include The Hodgett Singers performing a wartime medley and a fun 'Pub-like sing along' around the piano to entertain and join in with.

31st May at 7.30pm. – An Arts Out West Show 'The Great Baldini's Magic Cabaret'.

7th June at 7.00pm. 'Just in Time' – a superb selection of foot-tapping music from the Glenn Miller style big band from Ulverston. Not to be missed.

Please continue to support us in any way you can.

Tickets & information contact: Claire Hale – 07740717481 or Val Turpin – 07857008462

Urgently Required –

A new Magazine Distributor for Sandwith Newtown & Summerhill (19 mags) is wanted following the retirement of Susan Ashburner after many years of devoted deliveries.

Please contact Rosalie McAndrew by email or phone 01946 822326. Thanks.

Many Sincere Thanks to recently retired distributors – Eleanor Crichton in Rottington, Sandra Walker in Sandwith Central, and Noreen Woolaghan in Seacroft – and grateful thanks to those taking on the role – to Dolly Briggs for Eleanor; Neil & Jan Amor for Sandra; and Gemma Kirby for Noreen. Very much appreciated!

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

St Bees School News

Vi

St Bees School Celebrates Diversity at First International Food and Drink Festival
On Friday, 28th February, St Bees School hosted its inaugural International Food and Drink Festival, marking a vibrant and successful conclusion to the school's annual International Languages Week. Held from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Memorial Hall, the event was an exciting celebration of global cuisine, with students, staff, local businesses, and community members coming together to enjoy and share the diverse flavours of the world.

The festival featured an impressive variety of dishes from across the globe, offering a unique opportunity to taste foods from countries such as India, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Ghana, Romania, France, Italy, Ukraine, Norway and China. These delectable offerings showcased the rich cultural tapestry that defines the St Bees School community, where students and staff from many different backgrounds come together.

Stalls at the event were run by St Bees students, local community members, and businesses, all of whom contributed to making the festival a great success. Notable participants included businesses Dosa Chaska, Howling Wolf Artisan Bakery, and Raven's Nest Café, whose food stalls brought authentic tastes from India, the UK, and Romania. The collaboration between the school and local businesses highlighted the strong ties between the school and the surrounding community, reinforcing the spirit of inclusivity and celebration. We hope they return to attend next year.

The whole of languages week was full of fantastic activities led by St Bees School Language ambassadors, who are international students fluent in multiple languages: they not only helped ensure the smooth running of the festival but also provided language lessons to the local village primary school the day before along with other activities throughout languages week. Their dedication and hard work were key to the week's success, and they were praised by Mrs Bettinson, Head of Languages, who expressed her admiration for their contributions.

"I have so much respect for our international students – not only do they speak more than one language fluently, but they also live and study in a country different from their own. Their work ethic is exemplary, and their character is modest, affable, and generous," Mrs Bettinson remarked. "International Languages Week is not only about celebrating our school's diversity but, more importantly, celebrating our international language students. They worked so hard to produce an informative, creative, engaging, and 'tasty' week, not just for our staff and students but for the local community as well." The international festival provided an opportunity for students and local businesses to engage with one another, building stronger community ties while fostering a greater understanding of different cultures.

St Bees School would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this event through attending and contributing to the festival's success. We hope to do the same next year and to be able to tempt more local businesses to attend. It was a great event, one that celebrated both the diversity of the school and wider in the local community. Here's to many more such celebrations in the future!



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News from the Village School

World Book Day was a huge success in school, with children enjoying writing their own books and sharing them with other classes. All of the costumes were fabulous and it was wonderful to see how well our older children read to our younger children.

This year we supported Comic Relief by inviting the children to come to school with 'Crazy Hair!' The VSA also ran a joke competition. There was a prize for the funniest joke in each class and the VSA collected all jokes to publish in a SBVS Joke Book!

Year 6 visited the St Bees Over 60s Club to sing, entertain and talk to their members about growing up in St Bees. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and members of the club! Year 5 and 6 also enjoyed a day of orienteering at Muncaster Castle.

Our pupils have been attending Forest School; thank you to St Bees School for the use of their woodland. Forest Schools is a unique educational approach that focuses on outdoor, nature-based learning. These sessions aim to promote holistic development in children by allowing them to explore, play and learn in a woodland environment.

The children are learning how to identify willow and elder, and how to safely use tools to create holders for toasting marshmallows. They also made shelters and dens, hammocks and swings. A great time exploring the great outdoors!

The children have enjoyed Science Week during March, with plenty of experiments and investigations going on across school. We had a live science show in school about humanities next stage of space exploration and whether we could live on the moon!

We have been holding Coffee & Catch Up sessions in school for parents/carers to gather and meet various professionals from the education sector who support families in a variety of ways. We have also been welcoming families in for breakfast in the school hall, provided by our catering partners IFG. Both events have proven very popular and are useful sessions where parents/carers can have an informal chat and share ideas.

We finished the term with our Easter Service at the Priory. Many thanks as always to the Rev. Becky Gibbs for her input and hospitality.

Thank you for your support, Kate Davis, Headteacher

St Bees Village Easter Trail and Bees Bash!

The St Bees Village Easter Trail is back. The VSA is inviting the St Bees community to decorate your windows, gardens with bright and cheerful Easter displays for all to enjoy over the Easter weekend (Friday 18th to Monday 21st April). All the registered displays will be added to our Easter Trail map, which will be available to buy from St Bees Post Office over the Easter weekend. Let's reach every corner of our village this year, and beat the 22 we had last year. Let's celebrate our uniqueness and show off our creativity. Contact stbees.vsa@gmail.com by Sunday 13th April to register your display, for free!

St Bees Bash, Saturday 31st May 2025. Come along and enjoy a day in the sunshine with us at this year's Bees Bash. There'll be lots for everyone to see and do... music, food and drink, stalls, games, raffle, Scout camp and the Bee Unique inflatables. Held on St Bees School grounds, from 12.30pm, bring your picnic blanket and get settled in for an afternoon of entertainment and catching up with friends and family. Check the [@stbeesbash](https://www.facebook.com/stbeesbash) and [@stbeesvsa](https://www.facebook.com/stbeesvsa) Facebook page updates. school and VSA event news.

Jaime Lowrey (VSA Chair)

Results of Parish Council Bus Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent bus survey. This was developed after our environmental project questionnaire showed significant interest in a bus route through the parish so that we could understand more about why residents want to travel by bus and about these possible journeys. 101 surveys were completed.

The two most common reasons given for wanting to travel by bus were to travel to destinations not served by the train and the unreliability of the trains. Other popular responses for wanting the option of bus travel were to avoid driving, convenience, being a non-driver and to save money.

Just under a quarter of respondents had used the most recent bus service through St Bees that was run by Hobans (November 2021 & March 2023). The most common reasons given for not using this bus were unsuitable timetable/timings, they didn't live in St Bees then, they didn't know about the bus service, the destination was unsuitable, the pick-up location was unsuitable or they didn't have information about bus timings and stops.

When asked where they would like to travel to by bus, over 60% of respondents mentioned Whitehaven and over 40% of respondents mentioned Egremont. 29 further destinations in Cumbria were mentioned, including Workington, Cockermouth, Keswick, Cleator Moor, Gosforth, the hospital and Seascale.

Although respondents undertake most journeys by car or train to the preferred destinations they gave for bus travel, using a taxi or car share was also commonly mentioned, with some of these journeys also taken by bike or on foot.

Although over half of respondents had access to a car the whole time, around a fifth had access to a car only some of the time and a further fifth didn't have access to a car at all.

The train station, St Bees Seafront and Main Street were the most popular choices for where respondents would like to get on and off a bus, though Fairladies junction, Abbey Vale and Rottington were chosen by a smaller number of residents.

Although the most popular times given for possible bus travel were 9-11am and 3-5pm on weekdays, the responses indicated a demand throughout the day and week for bus travel, not just on certain weekdays.

When asked how often they might use a bus through the parish, 2 or 3 times a week was the most popular choice and around three-quarters of respondents indicated they would use a bus at least once a week if it were available.

When asked for further comments these broadly either favoured the suggestion of a bus, reinforced previous reasons given for why a bus through the parish would be beneficial or highlighted that a bus would need to be frequent, reliable and stop multiple places in St Bees and beyond to be well-used. One response also suggested a service similar to the Muncaster Microbus.

Around one-third of respondents who completed the survey had a concessionary bus pass. The results of our bus survey have been sent to Cumberland Council for consideration alongside their own bus consultation.

St Bees Green Future

Update on pen and dental item recycling:

The pen recycling scheme, sponsored by Rymans, has now ended, so we have removed the recycling tub from St Bees Post Office.

The dental item recycling scheme, sponsored by Philips, has also ended, so the recycling tub from outside 61 Main Street has also been removed. You can still recycle toothpaste tubes and electric toothbrush heads via the collection point at Boots in Whitehaven.

Amy Linton

Lunga's Nature Quiz

Hello. Lunga here. There seem to be quite a lot of creatures about at this time of the year. However, I don't know their names, so mammy will help - please see at the bottom of the page.

When it was dark in the garden for several evenings there was a good smell. I quickly found a little ball - it was all prickles, and mammy wouldn't let me touch it. I wonder what it was. (1) When it was just getting light on our morning walks there was often a black bird with a yellow beak on the path. It was still very sleepy and in no hurry to go flying away. What was that? (2) Then something was singing - very nice. It was first on the path and then flew to a bush to sing. It was small and had a red front. Who was that I wonder? (3) We pass a fence and often sat on the top are one or two large grey birds. I can approach right underneath before they fly away, as they do not seem to be concerned. What can they be? (4) At the caravan each morning we pass a field. It was full of big brown birds that ran away. Mammy said they were the mammy birds. The daddy birds seemed bigger and had longer tails and more colours. When they saw me, they managed to take off making a loud noise. What did I see in the field? (5) Now when we go for a walk there is lots of bleating and small woolly animals both black and white ones. They look good to play with, but their mammy calls and away they skip. What are these that will not play with me? (6) And finally, one day after I had watched a fly on the window there appeared another beast. I did not like the look of it and moved back. It was a bit bigger than the fly and had a stripey yellow and black jumper and wings. It appeared sleepy. Mammy did not like it either and got a cup and mat and got it out of the window, saying I had done well to spot it. What can it have been? (7)

Enjoy walking in the surrounding countryside.

Bye for now
Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers(1)
Hedgehog, (2) Blackbird, (3) Robin, (4) Wood pigeon, (5) Pheasants, (6) Lambs, (7)
Wasp.

Deepest Sympathy

Deepest Sympathy is extended to David Hope and family of Grindal Place on the sudden and sad loss of his dear wife Anne who was well-known to many in the village, in the Priory and parish. She and David enjoyed village activities, welcoming friends to their home, and inviting many to stay with them in Vienna. They supported their own church in Vienna, and St Bees Priory on their return from David's work with AEA overseas. Thinking of all their family, especially Kirsten, Bryony and Nigel, and all their friends here and abroad. Anne was much loved and will always be remembered.

Sincere sympathy is offered to the family and friends mourning the sad loss of Brian Edwards of Seaview, well-known to many in the community. He worked locally as a builder, joiner and undertaker, being involved in Priory funerals. He was the first to create a plan of the Priory churchyard many decades ago. Our thought and prayers go out to his beloved family Alan and Julie and their families.

A Tribute to Tom Milburn who died recently will follow in the May magazine.

St Bees helped transform the world on March 15th!

Hodegtt's village Hall now uses fair and eco cleaning materials and hosted the Annual meeting of the Cumbria Fair Trade Network. About 30 of us heard how Transform Trade is advocating for farmers and producers in a world where the big companies hold sway, fighting against unjust trade deals.

Sally, managing director of Meru herbs, a farming and production company in Kenya told us how the organic and fair trade business is changing the lives of women and their communities. As with all Fair trade businesses they are investing in green energy and good environmental working practices. Meru Herbs are both Fair trade and organic certified. Not only benefitting their community but contributing to protecting our planet.

We can do the same, choose the local or Fair Trade option when you buy and bite by bite you will contribute to improving communities and even saving the planet!

Debleestbees@outlook.com

Friends News & Events March 2025

Several varied events are planned for the spring term –

Friday 2nd May – A Presentation by Anthony Payne on Southern India- 7.30.pm in NCH

Sunday 4th May- Pond-Dipping in Priory Paddock from 2 to 4 pm Families welcome!

Wed. 7th May – Friends AGM & Committee meeting at 7.00pm in NCH

Friday 23 May - Egremont Town Band Concert – in Priory at 7.00pm

Members are reminded that their 2025 subscriptions are now due to Treasurer Norman Killip. Please note £10 per member; £15 per family or couple.

Many Thanks to all members and supporters.

St Bees Seagalls

The Seagalls look forward to celebrating their 10th year and are planning a celebration party on Sunday 13th July.

2025 got off to a great start with a good turnout for our February meet-up in the Seacote Hotel. Pete Seex kept us entertained with his insight into living and working in Vietnam whilst teaching there. It was lovely to get an insight into local culture, food, housing and even his son's wedding and wedding traditions. We even gained an insight into local health care when unfortunately he and Nat had a motorbike accident. Thank you, and we hope you both enjoy your holiday and seeing Adam and his family this week.

Just to note we meet up usually at 7pm unless stated otherwise. Tuesday 4th March at 7pm is our next meet-up in the Seacote. We are focusing on women's health and wellness.

Please remember anyone is welcome, all age groups. It may be a help if you have just moved into the village or somewhere nearby. You can just turn up or give me a ring. Contact in the back of the booklet. We will also post a meeting reminder on the village Facebook site.

WI News

At our February meeting, we welcomed Ralph Mitchell of 'Keekle Art Glass'. Ralph talked about his Art Glass Business. He sells his items at Lowes Court Gallery in Egremont, Farmers' Markets and Craft Fairs. We were told about the glass processes, which glass he uses, how the glass is cut and shaped into unique designs with added colours and patterns, and how the glass is fired in an electric kiln. After the glass has cooled, he is left with beautiful and colourful glass items, like coasters, pictures and jewelry. It was also nice to welcome lots of new faces on a cold February night: thank you all for joining us, this was followed by a Raffle and refreshments.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 10 March at the Seacote Hotel 7.30 pm. This is our Annual General meeting (which is a short re-cap of 2024 events and what we have planned for 2025), followed by the ever-popular Quiz by Jon Mellor. Our St Bees WI ladies are pretty good at general knowledge - how do you think you would fare? Why not make up a team (maximum 4) and test those little grey cells! Visitors £4, including Tea/coffee, and as always new members are most welcome, just turn up on the night, looking forward to seeing you!

Further details, Village notice Boards, our Facebook page www.St-Bees-WI.facebook and any WI member.

Over 60s Club:

Over 60s will start again on March 4th in Hodgetts Club. The meeting will start at 1 30 pm instead of 2.00 pm as we are being entertained by the village school children who have to be back for a certain time. The meeting for 18 March will also take place in the club but has not been arranged yet. We look forward to seeing you all again