

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 MStJ, Rural Dean Calder (07841 398088)

Sunday Services in Church

Live Streamed also

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays - 10.30 a.m.

2nd and 4th Sundays - 9.00 a.m.

See www.stbeespriory.org.uk for details

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

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

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

Hire of Priory & Halls

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

Booking Officers

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

Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

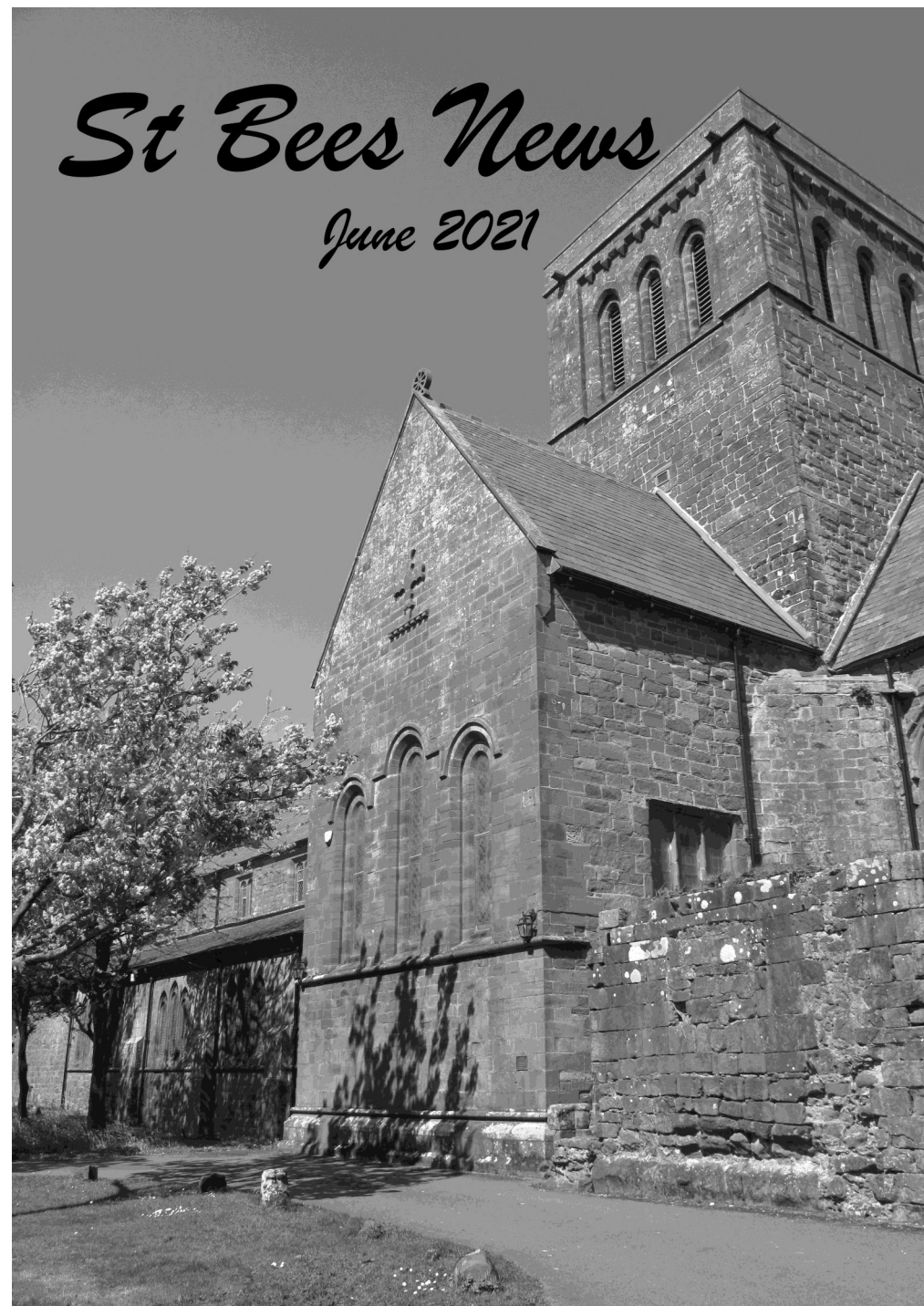
This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs. However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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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 - M Westhead (822674). |
| Arts Society | 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. |
| Bellringing | The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 31 Main Street. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m. |
| Brownies | Brownies meet on Tuesdays. Further details can be obtained from Leanne Cherry, contact 07805154408. |
| Cubs, Scouts, Beavers | 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. |
| Choir | rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307). |
| Churchwardens | are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Tom Kelly. |
| Councillors | 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 chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk |
| 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 |
| Fair Trade | Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com |
| Finance | The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system. |
| First Responders | provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497 |
| Football Association | Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson. |
| Freemasons | St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk . |
| Friends of the Priory | assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact Philip Barratt or Tom Rice, Treasurer, Green Ghyll, Greendykes, Egremont. |
| Garden Society | Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August. |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Guides | meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email stbeesguides@yahoo.com |
| History Group | works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468. |
| 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. |
| Parish Council | The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters. |
| Parochial Church Council | meets 10 times a year. Elections for 20 members are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - Jon Mellor, jonmell@hotmail.co.uk |
| Playgroup (Toddler Group) | 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 - amylinton1983@gmail.com |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Prayer Group | meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome. |
| Priory Singers | rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307. <i>Not meeting at present.</i> |
| 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 |
| Seagalls | meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Lynne Smith - Tel. 822285 - or Judith 07772523742 |
| St Bees Triers | Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email running@triers.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk |
| St Bees Youth Group | 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. See Priory website for details www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups . |
| Village School Association | exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392. |
| Village Hall | Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772). |
| Village in Bloom | Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522). |
| 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 New College Hall (see program). Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137. |

Calendar for June 2021

| | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------|--|
| 6 | Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 2 – 4 p.m. | Beach Clean, St Bees Lifeboat Station |
| 8 | Tuesday | 7.30 p.m. | PCC meeting, via Zoom |
| 13 | Sunday | 9.00 a.m. | BCP Communion |
| 20 | Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| 21 | Monday | 6.30 p.m. | Parish Council meeting, Hodgett's |
| 23 | Wednesday | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Open house for cake with Deb Lee (Traidcraft Week) |
| 23 | Wednesday | 7.00 p.m. | Friends of the Priory AGM, OCH |
| 26 | Saturday | 1.00 p.m. | Wedding, Jayne Laine & Jason Adair |
| 27 | Sunday | 9.00 a.m. | BCP Communion |

Postscripts!

Ascension Day Service on 13 May was celebrated outdoors in the church grounds. The rain held off but the rooks didn't! Everyone there enjoyed singing Compline, with Frank inside on the Father Willis organ, after so many months of silent listening in church services. After the service the shining illuminated cross on the tower was switched off until next Advent.

Addendum

Last month's history article repeated a question from 1907, when a newspaper had asked whether our Maria McGill was the last station-mistress in England. Peter Rooke of our Railway Museum had the answer – she was not quite the last, but by the time she died she had become the longest-serving station-mistress in the land. Thank you, Peter.

Last Word

Excuses.....Excuses

I started to slow down but the traffic was more stationary than I thought. The guy was wandering all over the road so in the end I had to run him over. Coming home I drove into the wrong house and hit a tree that I have not got. I collided with this stationary lorry that was coming the other way. As I drove past this cow, it decided to kick my door. It made a large dent but I was told afterwards that the cow was half-witted.

Editor – July/August 2021 Magazine

The **July/August 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 **Tuesday 8 June** please.

Email: jonmell@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01946 824926

St Bees News

June 2021

Have you ever wondered what a vicar does all day? Or even, what they do all the other days apart from Sunday? Across the county mission communities are being asked to consider whether they can continue to pay for their fulltime ministers. Some of us are being asked to do more over a greater area. I currently minister in St Bees and at St Leonards in Cleator six days a week, often for ten hours a day. In response to this news you may well be asking yourself, what can a vicar possibly be doing that takes that long!? Read on to discover a day in the life of a very ordinary parish priest...

7 a.m. Wake up and get a teenager out the door

8 a.m. Meditate/pray/ drink tea/ recover from the last sixty minutes

8.30 a.m. Feed dog, catch up on emails and paperwork

9.30 a.m. Pack car with robes, mask, gifts, audio equipment, order of service, drive to Cleator, remember to avoid Main Street (roadworks) visit colleague, preside at a service of Marriage Blessing for ex church warden at St Leonards church who has been married forty years

11.00 a.m. Visit parishioner, drop off gift

11.30 a.m. Stop off at Farmers Market in Egremont, catch up with parishioners, buy pies, go to post office, buy stamps, send forms to Diocese

Midday Travel back to St Bees, get to bottom of Outrigger, remember road shut, look pleadingly at workmen, no joy, take huge diversion up narrow roads to finish the journey, drive up verge to do so, fret about the wheels and paintwork.

12.30 p.m. Home. Drink coffee. Take dog to the beach. Recover from the drive home. Walk, pray, chat with parishioner whilst our dogs play, think about what else needs to be done today, remember parish mag due in today, and still no sermon for Sunday, two more admin tasks to complete, emails to reply to, St Bees website needs updating and it's meant to be a day off tomorrow

1.30 p.m. Lunch and quick chat with other half who's just got up after a week of night shifts. Reply to emails about, amongst other things, the liabilities of landlords and bored teenagers. Do admin tasks. Tick something off the to do list.

3.30 p.m. Son comes home. Catch up. Chat about the day. Make snacks. Start to write magazine article.

4.30 p.m. Realise that the day in the life of a vicar is actually quite dull and that most people will have given up reading by now, consider being creative with the truth about what actually happened today

5.00 p.m. Whilst staring out the window for inspiration spot three lambs in the front garden amongst the roses. Ask other half and son to help with shepherding. Quickly realise it's harder than it looks.

6.00 p.m. Make dinner (sadly not lamb chops) Answer telephone whilst peeling potatoes

7.00 p.m. Attend meeting on Zoom. Discuss with St Bees churchwardens how we might increase the church's income so that we can still afford priests in the mission community.

Continued overleaf

Priory News

Priory open! The Priory continues to be open daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.; and for Sunday services – 10.30 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays; and at 9.00 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month.

Evening Prayer is held every Sunday at 6.00 pm.

Good News! Pop-In Café will hopefully re-open as from 1 July - in the church for July/August to comply with social distancing rules. The Pop-In committee have decided to make a gentle start and will ask customers to kindly sit in the available pews/seats and dispense with tables initially. We are taking small steps towards some normality but please give us time to adjust gradually. We do look forward to seeing you all again and sharing live conversations!

Review of Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 16 May 2021

The Priory AGM is held within the service, incorporating reports and elections.

The Churchwardens in office are Rosalie McAndrew, Wendy Mellor and Malcolm Lightfoot who continue in post, with a new churchwarden elected Tom Kelly who was welcomed to the team.

The PCC members elected this year are:- the 4 churchwardens; Phill Bearman, Frank Bowler, Grant Gilmour, John Kennedy, Hilary Hemm, Deb Lee, Norman Killip, Anne Ross, John Haile and Chris Robson are co-opted. Sincere thanks to those standing down after many years of service – Philip Barratt, Claire Summers, Sue Davidson and Jon Mellor, and churchwarden Derek McGee. Their support and commitment have been invaluable to the life and work of the church.

Grateful thanks to all sidespersons, readers and intercessors, pastoral care team, & risk assessment officers, taking on new or expanding roles in the church and our community over the last 12 months. Also sincere thanks to Norman Killip for his meticulous work as Treasurer in a challenging first year; and to Jon Mellor stepping down after 3 years as PCC secretary for other commitments. To all - your dedication and patience have been much appreciated.

Love and Best Wishes

Best Wishes & prayers for healing and comfort go out – to Maureen Barratt recuperating from a shoulder operation; to Eleanor Haile recovering from a fractured hip; to Maddison Hower fighting Hodgkin's lymphoma (known via her gran Avril at St Bees Postie) . May God bless you all.

Congratulations to new grandparents Alistair & Barbara Hewetson on the arrival of Claire's baby girl Emelia. Best Wishes to the happy family.

Continued from Page 1

9.00p.m. Watch TV. Encourage son to bed. Wonder when Sunday's sermon will get written. Read, give thanks, sleep.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart. Colossians 3:23

With love from Becky

Our railway – at last

The railway came to St Bees a little late... Other places around had trains before us - especially those with coal or iron-ore to mine. Yet when the Furness Railway proposed a line through St Bees, many people viewed it with misgiving. Our Vicar, the normally modern-minded Canon Parkinson, was one of them; indeed, the day would come when his diary would say:

"Today a railway whistle heard for the first time in this quiet valley. Alas, our peace is gone".

Though he may not have much welcomed the railway, Canon Parkinson was certainly interested in its progress. Like others in the village, he would spend hours at a time just watching the navvies at work. Many of them were Irish, and the Canon was not always happy to have them here: more than once we find him complaining of what he called "*rough evenings*" in the village. But he was certainly pleased when they brought him long-buried pieces of masonry, some quite ornately carved. These would have come from the monastic buildings which in pre-Reformation days had adjoined the Priory. I think we still see some of those same pieces around its grounds today.

Our branch-line opened officially at the end of 1850. Here is the rather over-the-top account in the "*Whitehaven Herald*", not at all in their usual style:

"The Whitehaven and Furness line was opened on Tuesday last. A party of some sixty gentlemen, invited by the Earl of Lonsdale and the Directors, started at Newtown Station, Whitehaven, at half past nine. The morning was beautifully fine and the party, with snorting fire-horse, went on their way rejoicing.

"The valley of St. Bees, other than which there is no lovelier, passed in a twinkling. At St. Bees the party was joined by Canon Parkinson. Then onward flew the firmly-linked, safe-going train, as if conscious of its thrice-precious burden – the local Caesar and his fortunes, the patrician heads of Whitehaven, and the learned and Reverend Head of the College of St. Bees". Our learned and Reverend Head was not long in becoming a railway enthusiast. From the start he used the train frequently. "*Just imagine*", he wrote to a friend – "*forty miles, nearly, in not much more than an hour!*" But Mrs. Parkinson could not be persuaded: she never once ventured to board a train.

Our line opened with three locomotives, named Tubal Cain, Vulcan, and Hecla. These are names associated with great strength; Tubal Cain an Old Testament blacksmith, Vulcan and Hecla from classical literature. Soon they were joined by Copperknob, named for her shining copper-clad dome. All four gave long service, Copperknob for more than sixty years, and on retirement she was put on display on Barrow station. Then in 1940 came the bombing. The station was badly damaged, but Copperknob was retrieved from the wreckage and transferred to the National Railway Museum in York. There as "*Old Copperknob*" she remains to this day – still proudly displaying her wartime dents and gashes. She is one of their oldest locomotives, and many say their most handsome.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

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Grassroots

Publications in the Priory – In addition to the booklets and leaflets on the publicity desk in church, new copies of two books have been donated by Canon Dr Trevor Park – his book on the Theological College of St Bees, an intriguing history thoroughly researched, and his booklet of Easter Sermons, written in his priesthood years – an inspiring study.

Big brekkie raises £430 for Christian Aid Week! Items were donated by local businesses and individuals and cleverly boxed up for collection at Egremont Methodist Church, then it was Big Brekkie in bed!

Charm's Garden - This is still open for visitors to Fern Bank, High House Road. Although the daffodils are over, Rhododendrons and Wisteria are now coming out. Just come and wander. Over £650 has been raised for Hospice at Home. Many thanks, Chris Robson.

Over 60s - What a strange year it has been for everybody. I hope you are all keeping well and had your Covid jabs. Who ever thought there would still be no Over 60s to look forward to. It would be nice to tell you that we will be starting soon, but, unfortunately, we are unable to do this. The earliest we hope this will happen will be September if everything goes to plan. In the meantime, keep thinking of all the nice things we will be able to do when we get together

St Bees Litter Champions organised a beach clean as part of The Great Cumbrian Litter Pick on Friday 21 May, which focused on removing plastic fragments from the shore towards St Bees Head. 18 of us filled 11 bin bags that morning. Thank you to everyone that came along.

Join in The Great British Spring Clean on Sunday 6 June. Meet at 2.00 p.m. at St Bees Lifeboat Station. Litter pickers are provided, but please bring a pair of sturdy gloves. Contact Amy Linton if you'd like to take part (amylinton1983@gmail.com).

Toddler Group - A reminder that Toddler Group is running again. Anyone looking after children under 5 is very welcome to come along to join us. We are currently meeting at the seafront on a Wednesday from 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. Please contact Amy Linton if you would like to attend (amylinton1983@gmail.com). You can also find St Bees Toddler Group on Facebook.

Welcome to Gill and John Benedic in Snaefell, Sea Mill Lane.

Wishing Brian Edwards of Sea View, currently in hospital in Newcastle, a speedy recovery and return home.

Wildlife spotted in and around St Bees – heron in the beck; woodpecker in church sycamores; squirrel in the woodland; frogspawn in Priory Paddock; and buzzards circling above the valley; and a speckled wood butterfly in bluebells in an Outrigg garden. What else?

The Beacon Museum and Heritage Centre plans to re-open as from Tuesday 18 May, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (last entry at 3.45 p.m.). Adult £7; Child £3.50; concs. £5.50; Family £17.50. Opening Exhibition will be "Wildlife Photographer of the Year"

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County and Copeland councillors, and MP Trudy Harrison fully support the project and have been involved in discussions.

Station car park extension - Our station car park extension plan, which would yield about 30 new parking spaces, is being progressed with stakeholders. These include Copeland BC, Cumbria CC, Sellafield Ltd, and Network Rail. Our County and Copeland councillors, and MP Trudy Harrison also fully support this project and have been involved in discussions.

Parish Council News

Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman – the Parish Council held its annual meeting on 17 May – its first meeting in person since March 2020. Doug Sim was re-elected as Chairman for the coming year and Grant Gilmour was elected as Vice-Chairman. Unless government advice changes again, future meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Co-option of new Parish Councillor – The Parish Council has agreed to co-opt Debbie Bowler as a Parish Councillor to serve until the next election in 2023. Debbie has lived in the village for many years and we look forward to her joining the Council. There is still one vacancy to be filled. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact the Clerk, Jane Donaldson (tel 822560 or email pc_clerk@stbees.org.uk) or speak to any parish councillor.

Extension of the pavement on Outrigg – for some time the Parish Council has been pressing for the pavement on Outrigg to be extended to provide greater safety for pedestrians, particularly children walking to /from the Village School. The Parish Council has set aside £5000 in its budget to contribute to the County Council's costs and we are hopeful that Cumbria CC will be able to progress this in the coming months.

Beach Issues – CBC has carried out some repairs to the beach shelter and has put up new dog fouling signage. The Council is working with CBC to look at whether there is scope to rationalise some of the signage around the beach area to make it more effective.

Footpaths – the updated parish walks leaflets are available to download on the village website. They are proving very popular with visitors to the website. There is also a new walk (no 8) which guides walkers around the parish boundaries. The Parish Council is very grateful to the volunteers who have helped to complete this task, particularly Bob Mayow and Tony Pennick. Although Tony no longer lives in St Bees, his help with updating the maps has been invaluable. The Parish Council is also very grateful to Ian McAndrew who has spent many hours working on the new style web-site.

Marine Conservation - a volunteer for the charity Plover Rovers is walking the English coast to raise awareness of marine conservation issues. He will be in Cumbria in June and is keen to meet up with local people interested in these issues. Details can be found on the Plover Rovers website and his contact details are available from the Clerk.

Speedwatch – the Speedwatch team is now carrying out regular checks on traffic speeds as the volume of traffic is increasing again. If anyone is interested in joining the rota, please contact the Clerk or Jon Mellor.

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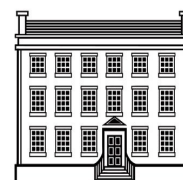
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RNLI

St Bees RNLI volunteer Dave Rothery raised a total of £600 that was shared between St Bees RNLI and Blood Bikes Cumbria by skydiving from 15,000 feet over Cumbria.

On the 4 October last year Dave Rothery, one of the volunteer Deputy Launch Authorities at St Bees RNLI, took on the challenge of a tandem skydive over Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. Dave, who also volunteers for Blood Bikes Cumbria, wanted to raise money for both charities. Dave, who likes a challenge and had always wanted to do a skydive, decided to take the opportunity to realise a lifetime's ambition and raise money at the same time for the two charities.

Dave said 'This was a great experience and something I had wanted to do for a long time. I would like to thank all my friends and family who helped raise money for these two brilliant charities. Fundraising has not been easy over the last year for the RNLI and Blood Bikes and this donation will be put to good use'.

WI News

Hello Ladies, hope you are all keeping well. It is over a year since we had our last meeting, in fact it was March 2020! The vaccine rollout is making great progress, with society set to be close to normal by 21 June 21. It was suggested to members having an outdoor picnic in the summer; the majority of our group were in favour. We are hoping to meet on the afternoon of 5 July, outdoors, weather permitting - please keep this date in your diary. Further details will be in the July issue of St Bees News and all members will be notified of time, venue etc.

All being well, and if church halls re-open to group meetings/events, we hope to resume our WI monthly meetings in September 2021. The Committee will meet to discuss this. If we get the go-ahead from WI HQ and Government advice allows meetings as a mixed group in an indoor setting, we will endeavour to re-start St Bees WI. Further details from Roxanne Benson on 823137. www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI.

My new assistant

Hello. My name is Lunga. I moved in at the end of March and find that I can be so useful. I prune the lower branches of shrubs, remove moss from the lawn and dig holes not quite exactly where my mammy would like. I find stinging nettles hurt my nose, but it's not too bad. In the house I keep an eye on the dishwasher - it smells so great, and the washing machine is fascinating. Lots of my toys roll on the floor or down the drive, but I find it's best to keep still until they stop and then I pounce - just to make sure. When the sun is out there are two of mammy and me - how confusing! I also see mammy in the window but she's here with me - how come? On walks I meet lots of dogs, people like to tickle my tummy: then there are horses that are so big it's best to bark but their manure is a great snack. Cows are big too and the sheep are interesting, so I sit and watch. Mammy takes me to the stream to drink - a walk is thirsty work you know! I enjoy being brushed and having my teeth cleaned is bliss as the toothpaste is liver flavoured! I have two brothers and two sisters in village so you will see about. Cheerio: it's now time for a nap.

Claire Summers, Lunga's mammy

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St Bees Parish Council

Chairman's Report for the year March 2019 to April 2021

The emergence of the COVID pandemic in March 2020 meant suspension of the print edition of St Bees News for several months, so we could not produce a printed report for 2019-2020. That has been consolidated into this report which covers the two years, 2019-2021, which we will be able to publish in print.

COVID-19

The biggest single event of the two years, in fact since WW2, has been the COVID Pandemic, which has affected everyone's lives. As the COVID pandemic spread, St Bees, in common with thousands of communities in the country, set up its own response network with 53 volunteers to help people get food and medicines and any other assistance with everyday tasks. This was ably co-ordinated by Cllr Jon Mellor. A big thank you to Jon and the volunteers for all their work. During COVID there were no meetings in April or May 2020 and the council went "virtual" from June onwards for all its meetings, using Webex video-conferencing.

St Bees Community Radio

At that time St Bees Community Radio, an internet station, sprang up on the initiative of local volunteers, led by Charles Bagshaw. The parish council supported the radio station and funded it for three months to help get it off the ground. It has broadcast 24 hours a day with a predominantly musical output, interspersed with community service announcements such as COVID bulletins and the details of the volunteer group. There have also been podcasts on history and parish council matters. Community events it supported were doorstep discos, VE day celebrations, and other street events. It has proved of great benefit during the shutdowns, and still operates today. It is reckoned over 100,000 unique users have at one time or another listened to the station. Many thanks to the volunteers who created and still run it.

Traffic calming and safety

The volume and speed of traffic through the village continued to be a concern in 2019, but from the start of Covid lockdowns, travel became a fraction of normal times. The speed gun group suspended operation when COVID regulations came in.

We had hoped to have the pavement extension on Outrigg, and the traffic calming gateway features completed by Cumbria CC, but this has been delayed by COVID.

West Cumbria Mining Company

Development consent for the mine has been a tortuous story, as most know, and is far from resolved at the moment. The Parish Council's policy has been to support the mine.

Cycle track link to Whitehaven and C2C cycleway

The route uncertainties due to the changing story of permission for the mine have delayed this project. Only when the future land management in the head of the St Bees valley is clear, can we continue. The track has huge local support, and if implemented would have huge benefits for St Bees and West Cumbria residents, and the tourist economy. Our

Continued page 16.

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St Bees School's New Head

Robin Silk - Signals A Time Of Growth And Development

Following an intensive recruitment process held by the School Management Board, Full Circle Education Group and the Senior Leadership Team, St Bees School is delighted to announce Robin Silk as the new Head. Robin's appointment will commence in September and forms an integral part of the St Bees strategy for growth. Current Head, Roger Sinnett, will then expand his role to become Director of Education for all St Bees Schools, responsible for overseeing and uniting all schools across the world to form the St Bees global campus.

Chair of the Management Board, Mark George commented that the selection process was rigorous and we have been successful in finding the right Head for the school. "Amongst a vast array of hugely qualified candidates we were unanimous in selecting Robin. He is the perfect leader to continue St Bees' journey and development towards a pioneering future."

As a University of London History graduate, Robin completed his PGCE at the University of Cambridge, and later, an MBA with the Open University. Robin brings a wealth of experience to the St Bees family, gleaned from his extensive leadership in schools over 20 years.

For the last 13 years, Robin has been leading schools overseas, and in some cases starting schools from scratch. He has led schools in 4 different continents, latterly Oporto British School, Portugal, and is therefore keen to bring his international experience and knowledge to further enhance St Bees' global outlook.

Robin's own interests and passions in rugby, hockey, mountaineering and travelling – leading over 40 expeditions all over the world – lie neatly with the School's clear and unique focus on EQ (character development). He fully aims to build upon Roger Sinnett's foundations, reviving the glory days of St Bees, but with a modern, global, perspective.

Regarding his appointment, Robin states that he is "absolutely delighted to be taking up the post of Head of St Bees School. The history of this esteemed school makes it an attractive challenge, and coupled with the pioneering vision of the Full Circle team, it is a doubly enticing role. I am dedicated to ensuring our students have an education that prepares them for the world of the future, and not just today."

"St Bees is getting a huge amount right. As Head, I intend to help the school grow even more, leading it into a bright future, whilst building links with our sister schools in China, with our alumni, both in the UK and abroad, and with universities and other critical stakeholders of the school. From small beginnings, we expect great things and to be part of this vision, at this time, is indeed a privilege. I thoroughly look forward to getting to know the staff, students and parents and all those who retain an interest and connection with this venerable institution. I hope you will join me in the belief that once again, St Bees is a school with an incredible future to match its remarkable past."

Let's Celebrate being able to meet up again!

Join our Covid secure Open house in Traidcraft week for Mothers' Union Summer of Hope. Wednesday 23 June, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 20 Abbey Vale, CA27 0EF

There will be cakes morning and afternoon, and soup, quiche and salad at lunchtime, with plenty of tea, coffee and some soft drinks

You will be able to buy some Traidcraft crafts, chocolate etc and take part in a Covid secure (no touch!) tombola and bottle stall.

To ensure everyone can still be safe, if you want to sit inside, please contact Deb on 823470 or lee535877@aol.com for your preferred time, as we will restrict those sitting inside to 8.

Also, please let me know if you can help provide cakes or bottles.

The Summer of Hope appeal works towards stopping poverty, inequalities and injustices worldwide and in UK. The Mothers' Union is 145yrs old this year so the aim is to raise £145!

Please come along, enjoy being out and together again.

News From The Village School

At this time of year, during the Summer term, our older children would normally be looking forward to their residential visits. We had hoped that enough restrictions would have been lifted for us to be able to run residential visits this year. Unfortunately, the continued uncertainty about COVID-19 and our Educational Visit Centre's inability to offer their sites to our children only, means we have had to withdraw our plans for the Key Stage 2 visits. However, we are thrilled that we have been able to organise a residential for Year 6. An activity centre has been booked that can accommodate just our Year 6 children with no other school's accessing the site during our stay. Great thanks go to Mrs Hansen for ensuring that our children will have the opportunity to enjoy a last residential with us before leaving for secondary school.

Children have been making posters to put around the school grounds to try and stop people leaving litter. There are bins nearby and rubbish can also easily be taken home. The addition of our CCTV system has enabled us to keep a 'watchful eye' on the grounds! Hopefully people using our grounds out of school time will begin to show more respect and care to areas that are used all week by young children.

As new announcements are made by the Government we will be able to make changes to our school routines and hopefully COVID-19 rules can be changed. We all hope that it is not going to be too long and would like to thank everyone for their support of all our measures.

Could we respectfully ask that residents do not park in the entrance to school on Outrigg. The Council wagons cannot get onto site to collect our waste, which in turn creates major environmental issues within the school grounds and therefore poses a threat to our children's safety. Please park with consideration.

Emma Sharp, Headteacher

A Letter from Michelle - Mukinge Hospital, Zambia

Dear Friends,

The big news since I last wrote is that we have moved in to the new operating theatre /ICU building! It took a whole day to move everything across and even as we were moving, we were still doing cases in the old theatre. I gave the anaesthesia for the last case: a little girl had swallowed a coin and it was stuck in her throat, thankfully we were able to remove it without too much trouble. A few hours later I had the privilege of giving the first anaesthesia in the new theatre when we delivered a healthy baby girl by C section.



The building is lovely and with 5 operating rooms (3 major and 2 minor) much more spacious than our old one. It is great to have the ICU in the same building and a designated area for patients to recover post anaesthesia rather than in the corridor as we did previously. On the roof, there are rows of solar panels that provide electricity and charge our “back up batteries”. These batteries are our power supply at night if there is a mains power cut.

One of the many things I love about living in Zambia is the weather! It is very predictable we have a 6-month rainy season, November to April and then it is dry May to October. And with an average of 7.35 hours of sunlight a day I can be outside for some of nearly every day of the year. Even at work I get to feel fresh air as our wards are separated by covered walk ways. Events such as graduations can be planned for dry season and held outside. It has been helpful as we try to socially distance and prevent the spread of Coronavirus that we can do things outside. Our team prayer meetings are now held outside so we can space out more.

Recently we have had 2 outdoor events at the hospital, the first was a blood drive. The team from the blood bank came to Mukinge and instead of collecting from donors inside

it was all done outside, on the graduation podium at our nursing college. I was able to give blood along with my friends Amy and Amber. It was great to see blood being donated as at that time our blood bank was down to the last two units. It is always difficult when the supply of blood is almost out, doctors have to make hard decisions on who to give blood to and who not. Sometimes major elective surgery has to be postponed until more blood is available.

The second event was the COVID Vaccination Launch for Kasempa. We are so happy that the vaccine (Astra Zeneca) is now available in Zambia. There is quite a bit of resistance and fear around it so the Launch was planned to encourage people to get the vaccine and to give them factual information about it. There were speeches given by health professionals, testimonies from those who had been sick or lost loved ones, a poem, a sketch and a song about kicking COVID out of Zambia. Two local chiefs attended and were among the first to receive the vaccine. By the end of the day 370 people had been vaccinated including myself.



Thank you for your interest in the work at Mukinge. I hope this letter finds you well

Love Michelle (*Michelle Proctor, formerly of St Bees*)

Friends of the Priory

The Friends will soon be back in action after 15 months without meetings or events or fundraising. We look forward to meeting and planning new activities – fundraising for the benefit of the Priory, and encouraging interest in its history and heritage.

We plan to meet for our AGM on Wednesday 23 June in Old College Hall at 7.00 p.m. –

to renew aims for the future, to hear reports and review our finances, and plan events. In addition to our cultural and musical programme of regular lectures and concerts, the Friends hope to organise more family events and appeal to all age-groups. If you wish to attend the AGM, you will be very welcome and we hope you will consider becoming a member. A committee meeting will follow the AGM.

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