# **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 Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee MStJ, Rural Dean Calder (07841 398088)

# **Sunday Services in Church**

Services every Sunday at 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm 9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family) 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays Morning Worship - 10.30 am 2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion - 10.30 am 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (1st - Evensong, 4th - Communion) Services are also Live Streamed

For weddings, baptisms, funerals and other religious occasions, please contact 01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

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

**Hire of Priory & Halls** 

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

### **Booking Officers**

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

#### Magazine production & distribution

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

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

\* - 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 Fair Trade	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 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  Cardon Society	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, Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is			
Garden Society	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,
		Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk, who
		will answer queries on civil parish matters.
	Parochial	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
	charen council	church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - Jon Mellor, jonmell@hotmail.co.uk
	Playgroup	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in
	(Toddler Group)	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.
	<b>Priory Singers</b>	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from
		Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307. Not meeting at present.
	<b>Priory Web Site</b>	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
	o .	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	meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7.00 p.m. in New College
	Group	Hall. All youngsters of secondary school age are welcome. See Priory
	•	website for details <u>www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups</u> .
	Village School	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school
	Association	and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
	Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and
	,g	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
	, mage web site	imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
	Women's	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel.
	Institute	Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.
	msutute	Contact Rozanne Delison 101 023137.

# Calendar for December 2021 - January 2022

5	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	•	4.00 pm	Christingle & Orchestra Carols, Priory
7	Tuesday	Evening	Santa Parade and Christmas Lights switch-on
	-	7.00 pm	Seagalls Christmas Crafts, Seacote Hotel
12	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	•	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Christmas Tree festival set up
14	Tuesday	12.30 pm for 1.00 pm	Over 60s Christmas Dinner, Seacote Hotel
	-	7.00 pm for 7.30 pm	W.I. Christmas Meal, Chase Hotel
15	Wednesday	2.00 p.m.	Nethertown Carols (Old Country Club)
17	Friday	7.30 pm	Friends Christmas Concert, Priory
18	Saturday	11.00 am	Village Orchestra concert at Priory
18	-	7.30 pm	St Bees Village Hall Christmas
			reopening evening
19	Sunday	10.30 am	No Service
		5.00 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
20	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council, Village Hall
23	Thursday	10.30 am	Communion Service, Priory
		11.00 am	Christmas Pop–In, Priory
24	Friday	4.00 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
		11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Communion
25	Saturday	10.00 am	Christmas Day Family Communion
26	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion

#### Calendar for January 2022

	Culchuul loi bulluul y 2022					
2 Sunday 10.30 am Morning Worship		Morning Worship				
			2.00 - 5.00 pm	Christmas Festival Trees removed, Priory		
			6.00 pm	Evensong		
	5	Wednesday	_	Village School re-opens		
	9	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion		
	10	Monday	7.30 pm	W.I. Scottish Evening, Seacote Hotel		
	11	Tuesday	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, Priory		
	16	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship		
	17	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall		
	23	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion		
	30	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship		
	Eve	ery Sunday	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer		

## Editor – February 2022 Magazine

The December 2021 issue of St Bees News will be edited by Pat McDonnell, Sandyridge, Priory Road, St Bees, who would appreciate all contributions not later than Saturday 8 January please.

Email: sandyridge@btinternet.com Tel. 01946 822516.

# December 2021 - January 2022

One of the most interesting chats I've had about Christmas took place when I was a parent helper on a primary school visit to church. I was with another mum from my son's class, Lisa. Lisa is a Muslim, and was really interested to know how I felt about what she perceived as the commercialisation of Christmas. "Are you sad that Christmas isn't about Jesus for most people?" she asked.

I have thought about her question a lot since then. Back then I explained that I had a lot of sympathy for people who celebrated Christmas but didn't think about Jesus. After all, the origins of December Christmas festivities stretch back thousands of years to prehistoric celebrations around the midwinter solstice. I also shared with Lisa my joy that because Christmas is such a broad festival, with a place at the table for everyone, believers and non-believers alike, I was free to celebrate it with anyone and everyone.

Reflecting on her question again today it strikes me that there is a third reason why I have a lot of sympathy for people who celebrate Christmas but don't think much about Jesus. The reason may shock you a little and may not be what you expect to hear from your vicar... I don't think Christmas is just about Jesus. Christmas is also about Father Christmas, family, charity, presents, food and Carol singing. That's why your Christmas cards designed by Isabella from St Bees Village school feature Father Christmas, traveling by boat, delivering presents to the Priory. Because for me, and I suspect many others, Christmas is about all these things and more.

The Church of England's Christmas campaign this year is entitled "At the Heart of Christmas". When I first saw this material I was a little unsure what to make of it. When I think of hearts I think of medical procedures and my tendency to faint at the thought of surgery makes me a bit queasy. My fear of blood means that I am medically inept but I do know that hearts are vital for our physical and spiritual lives, so much so, that when we consider the source of our life, we are more likely to grasp our chest than our head.

Considering all this, I wonder what's "At the heart of Christmas" for me? As we say in our monthly Story Services "what part of this story could we take away and still have the story?" And when I think about it, the answer is obvious, Jesus is at the heart of Christmas for me. All of the wonderful gifts of Christmastime have the power to warm my heart but none have the power to heal it.

Am I sad that Christmas isn't about Jesus for most people? Yes, I am. Not because I don't value the presents, food, people and traditions but because I want all to experience the love of God given in the gift of his son, Jesus. This gift outshines and outlast all the others. May you know the love that has the power to heal your heart this Christmas,

With love from Becky

# **Priory News**

### **Christmas Celebrations at the Priory**

**Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** will be held on Sunday 19 December at 5.00 pm. Tea/coffee served afterwards. All most welcome!

Refreshments will be in the side aisles to avoid congestion – social distancing requested. Please contact Sally Kennedy if you can provide mince pies or choc crispies for Christmas services.

Please note:- No morning service at 10.30 am on Sunday 19 December (9.00 am only)

The Christingle Service will happen on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00 pm – with Orchestral Carols! Everyone will receive a decorated Christingle to remember Jesus, the Light of the World. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society for homeless youngsters. Tea/Coffee & take-home goody-bags will be provided, to avoid many fingers touching.

**Decorating Christingles** – Do drop-off bags of oranges or join us if possible decorating the Christingle oranges with fruits & sweets – on Saturday 4 December in New College Hall from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Just come for half-an-hour or whatever suits, to lend a hand.

Please sign up on the church notice at the back if you can provide oranges or ingredients – grapes, soft sweets, cocktail sticks (ribbon and candles are already supplied).

**Crib Service & Carols round the Christmas Tree** - There will be an all-age service on Christmas Eve, Friday 24 December at 4.00 pm in the Priory. The children will help set out the manger scene and carols will be sung. All are welcome to attend.

Carols at Nethertown – A short service of readings and carols will be held at the Old Country Club, courtesy of the Nortons. Residents of Middletown, Coulderton, Nethertown and Lakeland View Chalet Park are very welcome. Wednesday 15 December at 2.00 pm.

#### **Christmas Communion Services**

Midnight Communion at 11.30 pm on Friday 24 December

**Christmas Day Communion** at **10.00** am (note time) on Saturday 25 December (one service only).

#### Pop-In Café - Thursday 23 December 11.00 am

A short Communion Service will be held in the Priory at 10.30 am, in the side aisle (no steps). All welcome to tea, coffee and festive treats at the back of church afterwards at 11,00 am.

Christmas music will be played by Frank!

# Parish Council News

Santa Parade & Tree Lights Switch-on — the traditional Santa Parade will take place on the evening of TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER. Santa will tour the village on his sleigh as last year, visiting as many locations as possible to ensure that families who don't want to gather around the Christmas tree can still see Santa and his bicycling elves. Santa will then switch on the lights on the Christmas tree when those who wish can assemble at Cross Hill.

**Outrigg** - Cumbria Highways began to construct the new length of pavement at the end of October. The work is being financed by CCC with a contribution from the Parish Council. Whilst the work has inevitably caused some inconvenience to traffic, this should be temporary and the new pavement will allow pedestrians to walk safely to and from the Village School.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations -June 2022 may seem a long way away but the Parish Council is already beginning to make plans to mark the Queen's Jubilee. If anyone has ideas for events or would like to volunteer to help organise events, please contact Hayley Monaghan (hjmonaghana@aol.com) or Jane Donaldson(pc\_clerk@stbees.org.uk) We know that local groups may already have plans for their own events - we would love to hear about them so we can compile a list of what is planned in the village and thus avoid clashes of dates.

**New bus service** -the introduction of the new Seascale to Whitehaven bus service which will call at St Bees has been postponed because of a shortage of drivers. It is now expected that the service will begin early in 2022.

**Abbey Wood** – the logs which were making it difficult to negotiate the public footpath have now been moved and the footpath is drier than it used to be.

**Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 20 December at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. The January meeting will be held on Monday 17 January 2022. Members of the public are always welcome to attend meetings.

......and finally, the Parish Council we would like to wish everyone in the parish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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# Friends of the Priory Concert

A programme of congregational carols & readings is being planned for Friday 17 December at 7.30 pm in the Priory. The Friends look forward to welcoming you – refreshments will be served. A collection will be taken for Friends' funds.

# Christmas Tree Festival at the Priory

Trees will be assembled by each group or individual on Sunday 12 December from 2 to 5.00 pm. Please bring your own tree and stand, battery lights and decorations. Trees will be displayed all round the church over Christmas for viewing and voting for your favourite; then taken down on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January afternoon, from 2 to 5.00 pm. We look forward to a wonderful celebration with more than 20 trees to be displayed!

# Christmas Gifts under the Priory Tree

or our senior friends in St Bees parish and in local Care Homes will cheer their Christmas & New Year and show them that we remember them with love. Please bring a small gift labelled for lady or gentleman to any December service, and place under the Christmas tree in the Priory. Thankyou!



# **Boxes of Hope**

Sincere Thanks from Rosalie McAndrew and Noreen Woolaghan on behalf of Boxes of Hope Cumbria to all who supported the appeal for destitute families in Romania. A wonderful total of 20 filled boxes and five bags of beautiful knitted woollens (hats, scarves & mitts) were received by the Priory; plus soft toys, toiletries and spare box fillers. Thankyou to our many generous donors of gifts and cash donations too. Many thanks to Tom & Noreen for delivering the boxes to the URC church, ready for transport to Barrow and on to Romania. Thanks, one and all!

### Big Thankyou from North Lakes Foodbank

Many thanks to everyone who donated groceries to the Foodbank harvest collection at the Priory - much appreciated and will benefit our local homeless. **Grateful thanks** also to everyone who brought fruit & flowers to the Harvest Festival, kindly distributed by Area Visitors to parishioners who are housebound or isolating, sick or bereaved.

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# News from the Village School

It is with much regret that I inform you that we have finally lost our marvellous Village School Association. The work undertaken and the funds raised, by numerous committee members over the years, has been invaluable to the school for decades. The children have received so much pleasure thanks to the VSA's efforts: iPads, interactive boards, musical instruments, refurbishment of the Library and outdoor area, special events and activities in class, trips out, theatre companies visiting school, musical and drama tutoring, arts and crafts equipment, discos and parties, books and reading schemes, to name but a few - all of which have greatly enhanced the children's learning at school. I cannot thank everyone enough and especially our latest Chair, Claire Mason who has fought tirelessly to keep the charity afloat.

Mr Silk, the new Headteacher from St Bees School, gave a very interesting and informative assembly to our Key Stage 2 children about his travels and experiences around the world. It was lovely to be able to put a face to the name!

Although we were unable to have our usual Armistice Day service at the Priory we did observe 2 minutes silence across school and the Reverend Becky Gibbs delivered a lovely remembrance service remotely to our classes. Sadly, this could not be done in person but fingers crossed for next year!

We have recently said a fond farewell to Amelia McCabe, the youngest member of our admin team, who has left us for pastures new. Amelia has been with us for 5 years and has been an integral part of the school. She has moved on to further her career and broaden her horizons, and she will be very much missed by staff, children and parents alike. We wish you the best of luck in your new ventures, Amelia!

We really enjoyed entering the Priory's Christmas Tree Festival where the school decided on a theme and each class contributed to the decorations. It will look fabulous! Our children also had a great time designing Christmas cards for the Priory celebration of 900+ years showing Father Christmas in a sailing boat bringing presents to St Bees and the Priory itself.

In the face of rising numbers of Covid cases in schools, it remains a very challenging time for all but our staff, governors and parents have been pulling together brilliantly. We really hope that matters improve so that this year families and friends can enjoy the festive season together. We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas break.

School re-opens on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Best wishes,

Best wishes.

ELSharp, Headteacher

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# Local Councillors **Borough Councillor**

Councillor Jeffrey Hailes Telephone 01946 814819 Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk **County Councillor** 

Councillor Chris Whiteside

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# From the Priory Registers

**Holy Baptism** 

31 October Christopher Paul Turner (adult) Whitehaven

**Holy Matrimony** 

6 November Gareth Paul Sheppard and Elisa Joanne Forster St Bees

In Memoriam

**Remembering Guy Mawson** formerly of Outriggs, St Bees and latterly of Penrith, who died at Silloth Care Home at the great age of 91 years. His funeral was held at the Crematorium on 25 October. A true St. Beghian, he was well-known in St Bees as a devoted member of many village organisations. - Bega Flats Committee, Over 60s Club, Village-in-Bloom, Priory Treasurer for 5 years, and founder member of Bega Lodge. Guy served in the Merchant Navy as an engineer laying deepsea wireless cables the world over, stationed for many years in Gibraltar and the West Indies. He discovered a mountain in a Pacific trench, named in his honour 'Mawson Mount' by the Marine & Charting Authority. On retirement he enjoyed beekeeping and village cricket. He was a distinguished gentleman dedicated to all his commitments.

**Love & Prayers for healing and comfort** go out to all who are ill or struggling with isolation or frailty – remembering especially those in hospital. Much Love to Katy Taylor -Hamilton now home after 3 weeks in Cumberland Infirmary with Covid. She is a brave champion enduring the 'devil' oxygen mask to ease her breathing! Warmest wishes to her mum Emma-Jane and Mum-Mum Margaret.

# Priory Flower Rota

Season's greetings & good wishes for 2022 to all on the weekly flower rota – and thanks for the many kind donations this year. Church flowers are much appreciated by all..

DecemberAdvent – No flowers25ChristmasPat CrichtonJanuary2Angela McGill9The Bragg family16Mary McGee23Mary McGee

31 Eleanor Crichton

# Success of Multi-Charity Sale

The Annual Gift Sale has raised a fantastic total of £4,767 so far, thanks to all stall-holders, the organisers Carole Woodman, Deb Lee and Rosalie McAndrew, and everyone who attended. Chris Robson's Art Exhibition/Sale run in parallel raised £500 – amazing! Thanks also to the strongarm team of Colin, David and Jack shifting furniture to prepare the halls.

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# Village History Group - Can Anybody Help?

I hope readers will forgive me for using this month's history page for what some consider not to be real history. It's just that several questions have come my way lately which I'm not really able to answer.

First, there is a query from New South Wales. It is from a descendant of someone who emigrated from St. Bees in the 1890s. He asks whether anything is remembered of a clergyman, probably Non-Conformist, noted then in Cumberland for his unusual physical strength. We do not know his name, but in his youth he had been a prize-winning bare-knuckle boxer and a Cumberland Wrestling champion. On one occasion, it was said, he had thrashed a drunk outside a village hostelry to stop him beating his (the drunk's) wife.

Another tale of this man, passed down through three or four Australian generations, concerns his purchase of a donkey. Having bought it at a local fair he set off for home, forgetting there would be a fee to pay when he reached the St. Bees tollgate. Two pence would be needed to ride or lead the donkey through, and his last pennies had gone at the fair. But then he realised - there was nothing on the Scale of Charges about *carrying* a donkey through. So he stooped down, hoisted the donkey on to his shoulders, and entered the village charge-free. He did the same ever afterwards, apparently.

Has anyone here now any knowledge of this story? Might it perhaps remain in some folk-memory within the village? We know there was once a Tollbar on the way to Whitehaven, close by the Abbey Road junction; its tenure was let periodically, and its Scale of Charges did include "Ass or Donkey: Two Pence". But that is all I have to support the story. I can find nothing of this singular character in the papers.

Another enquiry from afar concerns a St. Bees man and a bull. As told to me the tale comes "from great-grandfather's time", meaning perhaps a hundred years ago. We do know that cattle were still being driven through the village well after that, when the slaughterhouse was at the bottom of Outrigg.

It seems that a particularly frenzied bull, once inside the slaughterhouse, broke the halterrope securing its head to the floor..The slaughterman that day (one of the village butchers?) had a new, young assistant, who rushed out in a panic, slamming the big double doors and leaving the slaughterman in the dark with the bull. Someone ran for the policeman and he was quickly there, with a gun.

Having dealt with the bull they looked around for the slaughterman. He seemed to have disappeared. But then they saw him – hanging, sloth-like, from a beam in the roof. Being out of the bull's reach that beam had saved his life, but how he got up to it he was never able to explain.

Even though not viewed by all as proper history, it would be a shame now to let these tales be forgotten.. We would love to hear from anyone who can throw more light upon them.

Bob Jopling - St Bees History Group

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### Remembrance

**Bob Jopling's Nomination of Alan Rodgers** as representative of all St Bees War Dead has been accepted by Copeland MP Trudy Harrison – for the House of Commons Constituency Garden of Remembrance. Brief details of his service can be seen on her website and a cross planted for Copeland in the newly created Garden of Remembrance, created by the Speaker's Office and the Royal British Legion in their centenary year. MPs had asked constituents to nominate an individual or regiment whose war service and sacrifice they chose to be honoured this year.

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# St Bees Swimming Pool



General swim sessions are now available EVERY DAY at St Bees School pool. Check out our website to find the up-to-date timetable.

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

# Seagalls

Our October meeting saw the Seagalls gather at Zest harbourside restaurant, where all enjoyed a lovely meal and catchup. Congratulations to Zest staff on their excellent food and service.

Jennifer and Abby at Swain Hairdressers made us very welcome and fielded questions on problem hair, colouring and styles. There were volunteers for hair treatments and even one for a new low maintenance hair do. All this was accompanied by either Prosecco or some fizzy fruit juices. The Galls also each received a generous 'goody bag', containing shampoos, hair masques, chocolates and a voucher towards a blow dry. Jennifer and Andrew are expanding their business to include a Beauty Salon and we wish them every success on their new venture.

Cheese and Wine in November has become a regular occasion at the 'Oddies' and sincere thanks to Margot for hosting this over the past few years. We divided into groups for a wine tasting quiz and enjoyed cheese, crackers and grape platters during the evening. It was a well organised evening. Thank you to Judith for organising and Myra for keeping us on the right track with our quiz and being our MC.

The Seagalls are delighted to be using the poppies made prior to lockdown to lay a wreath as part of the Church Parade and have decided to enter the Light up the Priory event. Lookout for the Seagall tree.

Our next event is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the Seacote Hotel, where Maggie will be demonstrating Christmas Crafts at 7.00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Please note that there is **no meeting in January 2022.** 

Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page or Parish Council Noticeboards as we are busy planning for next year. Wishing all readers a Merry Xmas and a healthy New Year.

The Galls.

## St Bees Green Future

St Bees Green Future has set up St Bees Community Food Share on Facebook, which aims to reduce food waste by helping people advertise surplus food that someone else could use. Reducing food waste means that we don't waste the energy and water that went into growing, transporting and packaging food, and keeping food out of landfill also reduces production of methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. Please join the group so that as many of us as possible can share surplus food. Non-perishable items that are unopened and in date are still best donated to the local food bank, which you can leave in the designated basket in the Priory.

St Bees Green Future is also looking into organising some community cook events in the new year. These are a further opportunity to use up surplus food, while bringing the community together to cook and enjoy a meal together.

Amy Linton

# Wonderful Earth

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it.

People would walk around it marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between.

People would marvel at the bumps on it and the holes in it.

They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas.

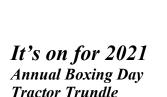
The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of

the ball and at the creatures in the water.

The people would declare it as sacred

because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives because they would somehow know

that their lives could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.



Meeting at Seacote Car Park - 10.00 for 11.00 am, then touring the village with various fuel stops.

Tractors, Cars, Bikes, Trucks - all welcome. Blow the Christmas Cobwebs off!

Collection for RNLI.



#### God for All – a Vision for Churches in Cumbria



# The Priory perspective

This December, we will have come to the end of the first season of church services exploring the theme of "Tread Gently". Since September the PCC and Priory congregation have been reflecting on how we might tread more gently on this earth and be better stewards of this planet and God's creation. Our next theme, from Advent to Lent 2022, will be "Care Deeply".

These themes are becoming more familiar to regulars at the Priory but if you are a member of the wider parish they may not be something you've come across yet. They come from the refreshed Vision for Churches in Cumbria, "God for all". The strapline is "Releasing the whole people of God for the whole mission of God for the transformation of Cumbria in Jesus's name." I understand this to mean that it is the church's job, called and equipped by God, to work together with their neighbours to enable good stuff to happen for everyone.

The refreshed vision is helpfully broken down into four themes. The Priory PCC have adopted these themes as key items on the agendas of monthly meetings and have assigned an ambassador to each area to promote and develop the vision. The themes are as follows;



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).

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- 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.

# St Bees W.I.

At our November meeting, Deb Lee gave a wonderful 'Fairtrade' talk to our group about the work that goes on with farmers and growers across the globe in an eco friendly way. With our precious planet Earth needing us all to be much more aware of climate change, choosing Fairtrade goods is a way we can all do our bit to help towards turning the tide with more sustainable choices, and in doing so helping the world's poorest communities. Our group were able to make purchases on the evening, which we all did, as Christmas is just around the corner, and this was followed by a raffle and refreshments.

Our next event is at St Bees Priory on 12th December from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, the Christmas tree Festival, where our W.I. Group will be decorating a tree along with all the other groups/teams from across the village. Can all of our W.I. ladies meet at the Priory at 2.00 pm, with your tree decorations ready to decorate the tree. May the best team win the wonderful prize of £50! This will be followed by our Christmas meal at the Chase Hotel Whitehaven on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00 pm for 7.30pm start. We will also be doing Santa's Sack, so please bring a wrapped gift with you.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our W.I. members, ladies on the Committee and the speakers who have entertained us since our re-launch in September 2021. Thanks also to Pam, Events Manager, and her team at the Seacote Hotel, who have looked after us at our monthly meetings, allowing our W.I. Ladies feel to safe and comfortable in our current venue. I wish all our members, speakers, and supporters of St Bees W.I. a very happy Christmas and look forward to a much improved 2022!

Our first meeting of the New Year, 2022, is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel. We are having a Scottish themed Evening, with a Scottish Quiz by our very own Quiz Master Jon Mellor! There will also be a raffle and refreshments, and please embrace the evening prize for Best Dressed Scot! Think Tartan, find those kilts and other tartan items and let's have some fun! Please bring with you any Scottish items to display - books, maps, photographs - literally anything to do with Scotland!

New members and visitors welcome to join us, see you there! Further Details from Roxanne Benson 823137, www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI\_and Village notice boards.

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Roxanne Benson

# Mystery stone

Some months ago a stone slab was found in a garden wall of a house quite close to St Bees Priory The stone was about three foot long and had well cut letters in it as the picture shows. The puzzle is to find out what the words mean, find out how old it is and whether the stone originally marked a grave in the Priory grounds. We hope to give some explanation in the next edition of the Parish Magazine. *Chris Robson* 



# St Bees School News

Of course, we seek much more than normality, but what has been so delightful as the term has gone on is the increasing sense of normality that has been brought on by a yearning for the things that a great school should do. Not only are we starting to reach a reasonable size, with a huge amount of interest to follow, but we are beginning to engage once again with our community and to have collegiate events like the Bonfire Night, Remembrance Service, a wonderful Service of Nine Lessons and we still have our Carol Service even a Murder Mystery event in our hallowed halls to come. It has certainly been great to see our school family interact more readily with our closest friends in the Parish Council, the OSBs, the School Trust and the village more widely and it is merely the sign of things to come.

For me, in my first term as Head, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our excellent staff team, our eclectic mix of students and all those who support the school. I have equally enjoyed living in such a wonderful village as St Bees. There is certainly something truly special about driving over St Bees Head and seeing below you the green fields of the school and the golf course, and the ancient buildings of the school and the Priory.

After 13 years setting up schools abroad I already feel that I am truly coming home. I am delighted to say we have also managed to set up a governance committee which we have labelled the Local Advisory Council. The Chair of the Trust, Mark George, has kindly agreed to lead this body. I have quickly developed the firm belief that we have a duty to save Archbishop Grindal's legacy and ensure this august institution is successful not just now but in the long-term future.

As a mountain leader and, more importantly, a lover of the wilderness, a particular highlight for me has been the Wainwright Club that has now experienced 5 forays into the fells. With parties ranging from 14 to 26, thus far a grand total of 14 different Wainwrights have been conquered. We look forward to some good, if not rather chilly, Sunday outings in our beautiful Lake District next term.

The school now has 72 students; with the interest being shown thus far, we are confident we will score a century by next September and continue to bat on for the double and then triple tonne thereafter. The school will always be a good melting pot of local Cumbrians and international students and a balanced mix of day, boarding and weekly-boarding students. In spite of the barriers put in place by the Covid pandemic we continue to build our links with our 3 schools in China and we look forward to the day when we can start up exchanges with our Chinese sister schools.

In the meantime we are doing everything we can to build our Global Campus project, with which students will be able to move seamlessly between China and the UK. We also have a charity school in Cambodia- all very exciting indeed and as the world increasingly opens up once again we will be able to exploit the opportunities our connections present.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year and inviting you to further events such as our singing competition, the school play and other theatrical events, an Easter Fair and more.

It leaves me to wish all in the St Bees Parish a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and also say a particular thank you to my superb Senior Leadership Team of Andrew Keep, Laurence Gribble and Ceara Fisher for the excellent support they provide. God bless you all.

\*\*Robin Silk\*\*



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 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 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).
- $\hbox{- To equip people with practical, every day ways of living more sustainably.}$
- To help Christians in expressing a Christian viewpoint on environmental issues.

# What's happened so far?

This Advent we have been encouraging one another to consider how we might live in love and faith, especially thinking about how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ. We have been wondering, what does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? These are important questions as we "follow daily" and consider how we can best welcome the whole people of God in an ever changing social context.

The "Speak Boldly" theme is, we have decided, the most challenging. It is not always easy to stand up boldly for what we believe in, many of us are nervous of causing offence or rocking the boat. Many of us have little experience of public speaking or voicing our opinion wider than our family or small social grouping. The first step is, to simply speak, and we hope to see more members of the congregation reading and leading at services over the coming months. The next step is to be bold and kind, to speak up for those who aren't easily heard and to campaign passionately for the things that matter to us, both as individuals and as a church.

There is some crossover between the themes. Recently there have two issues close to our hearts that we have both cared deeply and spoken boldly about; the plight of Afghan refugees and victims of domestic abuse. Rachel Walker came to speak to the PCC in October about the "Welcome Churches" project. This project links churches with Afghan refugees who have been given accommodation locally. We have consequently signed up to be a "Welcome Church" and hope to strengthen and develop these links in the future. We are also supporting the 16 days of activism against gender based violence 25 November to 10 December 2021.

Since September we have particularly focusing on the "Tread Gently" theme. Several of our worship services have explored the beauty of creation and the negative effects of climate change. In November Rosemary Riley from St Cuthberts Church in Lorton came to speak to us about Eco Church and following this we have put together a working party to apply for our Bronze Eco Church award. Alongside this we are supportive of village initiatives tackling the climate crisis and are promoting these in church services and in our weekly Priory News.

# St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival - December 2021

Thank you so much to everyone who has entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festivalthe Priory is going to look truly spectacular! Here are just a few reminders for set up day on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December and also for those wishing to visit during the following weeks:

On arrival at church, please use the hand sanitiser located at the entrance; if you are able, please wear a mask once inside church.

Arrival on set up day is any time between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm Please remember a stand or your tree and £10 cash for your entry fee. You will be given an area to place your tree along with an entry number to display alongside it.

Visitors are warmly encouraged to visit church during the festival period from Monday  $13^{th}$  December to Sunday  $2^{nd}$  January. Please vote for your favourite tree using the voting box which will be located at the back of church; the winning tree will receive £50 as a prize and this will be announced in church at 2.30pm on Sunday  $2^{nd}$  January.

For those visiting the Tree Festival, if you would like to make a donation, there will be envelopes next to the voting box. Simply put your donation in the envelope, label the envelope: "Tree Festival donation" and pop your envelope in the wooden donation box attached to the pillar at the back of church on the right hand side. All proceeds from entry fees and visitors' donations will be shared between St Bees RNLI and the Priory.

Please contact Sarah George at sarahgeorge.bees@gmail.com or on 07793 754803 if you have any further queries.



#### St Bees Post Office and General Store

Karl, Chelsea and family would like to thank customers, old and new, for their support and wish them all a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year



December		Shop	Shop	<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Post Office</b>	
24	Friday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm	
25	Saturday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	
26	Sunday	8.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed	
27	Monday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed	
28	Tuesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed	
29	Wednesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm	
30	Thursday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm	
31	Friday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm	
January						
1	Saturday	8.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed	
2	Sunday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed	

# Grassroots

**RNLI Concert** - Unfortunately, the St Bees RNLI Carol Concert is unable to go ahead this year. We look forward to seeing you all next year. Thank you for your continued support.

Everyone at St Bees RNLI & Guild would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

## St Bees RNLI are looking to recruit volunteer crew.

No previous sailing experience is needed as you will receive all the training you need both here in the village as well as at our headquarters in Poole.

If you live in or very near to St Bees and want to be part of the RNLI's continued aim to help save lives at sea, please send an email with your details to <u>St-Bees@rnli.org.uk</u>

**Over 60s** - I hope you are all keeping well and enjoyed the trip to Houghten Hall. Our Christmas dinner will be on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Seacote Hotel, 12.30pm for 1.00 pm Please bring a wrapped gift. We need numbers a week before. Please let me or Dot Amor know as soon as possible if you wish to come. The committee would like to wish all our members a happy Christmas and hope to see you at the end of February next year when we start our new programme.

Gill Richardson

**Recycling drug blister packs** - If you use medication that comes in a blister pack, you can now recycle these in the collection tub at St Bees Post Office. Thanks to St Bees Post Office for acting as a drop off point.

*St Bees Village Hall* will be holding a Christmas Reopening get together on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm Tickets are £6 and include a pie and peas supper, so please contact Leslie Rutherford, telephone 824109, for an evening of festive cheer at Hodgetts.

**Village in Bloom** - As the season is ending the Village in Bloom ladies would like to thank all those who have helped this year. Special thanks to the Parish Council, David (St Bees School), Alistair & Brian for the purchase and preparation of our new work base & to Northern for their continued support. All plans now are for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

**The Mummers** will, once again, embark upon their traditional, seasonal tour of the village hostelries on Christmas Eve. Proceeds, as ever, to the RNLI.

**Sincere Thanks** from a special admirer (and supplier of shortbread!) to the 'Holy Mowers' team who keep the church grounds so beautifully maintained throughout the year. Well done, gents! Your great work is much appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

Well done for Recycling in St Bees. St Bees Post Office has sent on several batches of blister packs. Don't forget you can also recycle Pens there as well as Crisp packets at Hartley's Beach Café. The dental items (at 61 Main Street) provides emergency dental training in Africa. A healthy walk to Overbeck, Sea Mill Lane, means you can recycle your Chocolate, sweet, biscuit, cracker and cake bar wrappers – including outer packaging and from individual bars.

#### What's next?

From Advent to the eve of Lent we will be focusing on how we might "Care Deeply" in our worship services and wider church life. We will continue to faithfully serve the parish and beyond in traditional ways. We will also be reaching out to other organisations and seeking to listen to our local community.

During Lent and Easter we will be focusing on how we might "Follow Daily" with a particular focus on generosity. But we don't have to wait until then to seek to grow as disciples or get to know God a bit better. Christmas is a really good time to think about whether following Jesus is something that's important to you. Look out for the free "Heart of Christmas" booklets with devotions for the twelve days of Christmas available to pick up from church throughout December. If you'd like to link up with us as we seek to "Care Deeply" or "Follow Daily" please get in touch with Reverend Becky.

In the summer we will be considering how we might "Speak Boldly" in our worship, communities and wider world. This theme will run from Pentecost to the end of August. We won't be keeping quiet before then though, there's too much injustice in the world for the church to stay silent and we will be making ourselves ready to speak out on the important issues of the day. We will also be seeking ways to be a welcoming church to those who are currently under-represented in the pews. To find out more contact Grant Gilmour, Speak Boldly ambassador.

Our months of "Treading Gently" have encouraged us to do all we can to become an "Eco Church" and in 2022 we would like to partner with other organisations with similar goals. We would also like to celebrate the Jubilee by being part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a tree planting initiative inviting every individual to plant a tree by June. The Priory are looking to support the planting of a native tree in honour of the Queen somewhere suitable in the parish where all could enjoy it. To find out more contact Deb Lee, Tread Gently ambassador.

Look out for new "Priory perspectives" every month in the St Bees News with updates from the "God for All Vision" and themes. Wishing all our friends a safe and Happy Christmas, with our love Frank And Deb

Wishing everyone a Joyful Christmas and Happy & Healthy 2022. David and Avril (Dodding) Allen.

Jim and Anne Baker wish all friends and neighbours a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Blanche and Edward Arch send Best Wishes to all their friends and acquaintances in St Bees for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maureen and Philip Barratt wish all their friends and neighbours in St Bees a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2022

Covid times may make meetings fleeting, So we are sending Yuletide greetings, We wish you all joy and festive cheer, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Love from Anna and Dick.

To Family, friends and neighbours. Christmas Greetings and all good wishes for 2022. Mary & Ernie Branford.

Gill Burgess would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David, Jennifer, Coda and Snowball Crooks would like to wish all family and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Elizabeth Cotes at Kirklands, Cockermouth, would like to wish all her friends in St Bees parish a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



Best wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Vicar and family, the Ministry Team, Churchwardens and PCC.



Gweneth & Neville Denson & family send their love and best wishes to all their friends and neighbours for a happy, peaceful Christmas and a better Year ahead. God bless and keep you safe.

Mark, Sarah, Tom & Emma George would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022.

John & Eleanor Haile wish everyone Blessings and Happiness for Christmas and 2022.

Leonie and Ian wish all their friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and thanks for so many kindnesses, to all our friends and neighbours in St Bees. Bob and Thelma Jopling.

John & Sally Kennedy send all their love and best wishes to all for a Blessed Christmas & a Joyful New Year

The Lewis family would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and also best wishes for 2022.

Margaret Thompson, Lisa & Faith at "the Oddies", would like to wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas, and thanks for all their support throughout the year.

Best wishes to all friends and neighbours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2022 from Ian & Rosalie McAndrew.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes to all friends and neighbours from Patricia McDonnell.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for every joy and happiness in the New Year to all in St Bees and outlying villages from Derek and Mary McGee.

Wishing all my friends in St Bees and at the Priory a very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year. Angela McGill (Gosforth).

Best wishes to all our friends for a Happy Christmas. Anne and Sandy Mackenzie.

Dave and Val Maudsley with their family wish all friends and relatives a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful 2022.

Christmas Greetings to all in St Bees! With best wishes for a Happy & Healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Jon & Wendy Mellor and family.

Ian Watson wishes all his friends in St Bees a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Ken and Gill Richardson would like to wish all friends and family a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. Alex and Eileen O'Fee would like to take this opportunity to wish all relatives and friends a Happy Christmas and especially a healthy 2022.

Seasons Greetings from Irene Palmer Bradford-on-Avon to all friends and neighbours in St Bees.

Wishing all our family, friends & neighbours a special Christmas and a Happy New Year .
From Dougie and Angela Park.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Chris and the Robson family send their warmest wishes to all friends in St Bees parish for a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Best wishes to all my friends in St. Bees for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. Mary Todd.

Colin & Joan Wadey wish all their neighbours & friends a very Happy Christmas & all the best for the New Year.

Jackie Walker wishes all friends in St Bees a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Wishing you all the joy and happiness of Christmas and in 2022 from Dorothy Warbrick.

