

## St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088)

Associate Priest of St Bees Priory

Rural Dean of Calder

### Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498)

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

## Sunday Services in Church

Services every Sunday at 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family)

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays 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](mailto:enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk)

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

### Hire of Priory & Halls

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

### Booking Officers

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or [imcandrew@stbees.org.uk](mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk)

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

### Magazine production & distribution

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

Circulation - 950 households in St Bees Parish

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305



## St Bees Parish A B C

<b>Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - M Westhead (822674).
<b>Arts Society</b>	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Bellringing</b>	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 31 Main Street. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
<b>Brownies</b>	Brownies meet on Tuesdays. Further details can be obtained from Leanne Cherry, contact 07805154408.
<b>Cubs, Scouts, Beavers</b>	Cubs for children aged 8 - 10, meet on Thursdays, 6.30 - 8pm. Beavers meet on Thursdays (term time) from 5.00 - 6.00 pm. Details from Graham Young. Scouts meet at Egremont.
<b>Choir</b>	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
<b>Churchwardens</b>	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Tom Kelly.
<b>Councillors</b>	Copeland - Cllr Jeffrey Hailes- 01946 814819, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m Monday to Friday. Cumbria - Cllr Chris Whiteside, 01946 67575 or 07798667678. E-mail <a href="mailto:chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk">chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk</a>
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
<b>Fair Trade</b>	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - <a href="mailto:lee535877@aol.com">lee535877@aol.com</a>
<b>Finance</b>	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
<b>First Responders</b>	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
<b>Football Association</b>	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
<b>Freemasons</b>	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or <a href="http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk">www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk</a> .
<b>Friends of the Priory</b>	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees,
<b>Garden Society</b>	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

<b>Guides</b>	meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email <a href="mailto:stbeesguides@yahoo.com">stbeesguides@yahoo.com</a>
<b>History Group</b>	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Over 60's Club</b>	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
<b>Parish Council</b>	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email <a href="mailto:pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk">pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk</a> , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	meets 10 times a year. Elections 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 - <a href="mailto:r.e.rendell@gmail.com">r.e.rendell@gmail.com</a> , 07977 096426.
<b>Playgroup (Toddler Group)</b>	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from Amy Linton - Email - <a href="mailto:amylinton1983@gmail.com">amylinton1983@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pop-in Cafe</b>	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
<b>Pre-School</b>	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
<b>Prayer Group</b>	meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.
<b>Priory Singers</b>	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
<b>Priory Web Site</b>	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk">http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk</a>
<b>Seagalls</b>	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
<b>St Bees Triers</b>	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email <a href="mailto:running@triers.uk">running@triers.uk</a> Tel. 823497 Web <a href="http://www.triers.co.uk">www.triers.co.uk</a>
<b>St Bees Youth Group</b>	meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7.00 p.m. in New College Hall. All youngsters of secondary school age are welcome. See Priory website for details <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups">www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups</a> .
<b>Village School Association</b>	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
<b>Village Hall</b>	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
<b>Village in Bloom</b>	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522).
<b>Village Web Site</b>	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or <a href="mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk">imcandrew@stbees.org.uk</a> Address is <a href="http://www.stbees.org.uk">http://www.stbees.org.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

## Calendar for March 2022

1	Tuesday	11.00 am	Pancake Party in NCH
		7.30 pm	Seagalls Quiz Night, Queens Hotel
2	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Communion, Priory
3	Thursday	9.30 am	Lent Communion (1 <sup>st</sup> midweek Lent Communion)
6	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		6.00 pm	Evensong service
7	Monday	7.00 pm	Village Hall Management Committee AGM
8	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Bingo in Hodgetts Club
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, NCH
12	Saturday	12.00 – 2pm	First Lent Lunch, New College hall
		7.30 pm	“The Hills are Ours”, Hodgetts Club
13	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
16	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Friends Committee meeting, NCH
18	Friday	7.30 pm	Talk by Phil Barratt for Friends, NCH
19	Saturday	12.00 – 2 pm	Lent Lunch 2, New College Hall
20	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		4.00 pm	Choral Evensong for Emergency Services & Buffet Tea
21	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting in Hodgetts Club
22	Tuesday	1.30 pm	Over 60s sandwiches and chips, Seacote Hotel
26	Saturday	9.30 am	Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday, Priory
		12.00 -2pm	Lent Lunch 3, NCH
27	Sunday	9.00 am	BCP Communion service (no Story service)
		10.30 am	Mothering Sunday service (with Orchestra & posies)

### April

2	Saturday	12.00 – 2pm	Lent Lunch 4, NCH
3	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship & APCM (elections & reports)
		6.00 pm	Evensong for first Sunday

**Quiet Lent Communion** – Thursday mornings 3<sup>rd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30 am

## Editor – April 2022 Magazine

The **April 2022** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Amy Linton, Overbeck, Seamill Lane, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Tuesday 8 March** please.

**Email:** amyinton1983@gmail.com **Tel:** 01946 417614

## St Bees News

## March 2022

In a room at the front of the vicarage  
Sits a cupboard, with a key  
The door has a window made entirely of glass  
Look closely and you will see.

Inside, piled up high, treats we can eat  
Chocolate, crisps and sweets galore  
The cupboard of magic, stays locked night and day  
Never empty, always something in store.

In Lent, the cupboard is off-limits  
For the vicar must show self-restraint  
In March and in April she will leave the key be  
And practise the life of a saint.

But life is full of cupboards and keys  
Whatever the season let's remember  
Greed is tempting in May, sloth appealing in June  
Gossip enticing from Jan to December.

The world cannot hold a big enough cupboard  
To lock all this sin within  
And if it did, we wouldn't be free to make choices  
It seems we just cannot win.

If you feel, like I do, it's a struggle  
To choose right over easy some days  
Have faith in the God who made you with love  
And Jesus who knows you always.

This Lent let us follow him daily  
Choose the path of discernment and care  
When faced with a cupboard, the key in our hand  
Stop, ask, how much good is there in there?

With love from Becky

*Matthew 16.24:*

*Jesus said, If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me*



## Priority News

**Good News! Lent & Easter events will happen!** Restrictions are easing; in March we can look forward to celebrating Pancake Tuesday; Mothering Sunday; and Lent Lunches. Please continue to take care as usual with sanitising, mask-wearing for singing, and avoiding congestion. Services will continue to be live-streamed for those staying at home. Pews in church will be returned to their normal position, creating double the seating space in use during distancing precautions; the Track & Trace register will be dispensed with. You may still register using the QR app on your mobile phone.

**Pancake Party for Shrove Tuesday** – on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March we return joyfully to New College Hall for a Pancake Party & Fundraiser from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm. Sweet and savoury pancakes will be served with a variety of fillings to choose from. Cost £3 including a drink (extra pancake £1). Funds raised will go to the local Foodbank. All welcome.

**Pop-In Café returns to NCH!** The PCC has agreed that the time is right to return Pop-In to NCH. Meeting there as from February 24th at usual time of 10.30 to 12 noon on Thursdays.

**Mothering Sunday service** – A Special All-Age service with Communion will be held in church on Sunday 27 March at 10.30 am. with the Village/Priory Orchestra playing for us. Posies will be presented by children & young people or anyone, to their mothers and grandmothers - indeed to all the ladies in church! Spare posies will be available to take out to those at home who are unable to attend.

**Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday** – This will happen in the Priory on Saturday morning 26 March from 9.30 to 10.30 am. Do come and help make up the posies! If possible please bring along spring flowers, heathers and greenery for the posies. Details from R. McAndrew (tel. 822326).

**Weekly Lent Communion service** will be held on Thursday mornings in March at 9.30 am in the Priory before the Pop-In Centre opens. Officiant – Rev. Richard Lee. All welcome to attend.

Please note the dates:- 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March.

**Receiving Holy Communion** – At the February PCC meeting it was decided that we will continue to receive Communion in one kind only (the wafer) at the 10.30 am service, but intinction – dipping wafer in wine by the priest - will be offered at smaller services particularly 9.00 am Communion.

**Please note – Clocks spring forward for Mothering Sunday!** Don't miss the 10.30 service. British Summer Time starts on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March.



## From the Priory Registers

### Christian Funeral

28 January Keith Hayes 43 The Crest, Whitehaven

My God's Blessing be upon you and your families.

## Parish Council News

**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** - the Parish Council is meeting groups & individuals in St Bees to progress plans to mark the Queen's Jubilee. If you or your group has ideas or would like to volunteer to help organise events, please contact Hayley Monaghan (hjmonaghan3@aol.com) or Jane Donaldson([pc\\_clerk@stbees.org.uk](mailto:pc_clerk@stbees.org.uk)) or contact us via our Parish Council Facebook page.

**Signage** – there are a number of signs around the village which are now redundant, including one by the station. The Parish Council is working on a plan to identify/remove redundant signs and make signage more relevant. More details to follow!

**Defibrillator** – we are having problems with someone repeatedly using tape to cover the light on the defibrillator cabinet at the beach toilets. It is very important that the light is visible to show that the equipment is functioning and available for use in an emergency. This is a device which could save a life – if someone has an issue with the light, we would like to hear from them so we can discuss the problem.

**Valley Link Cycle Track** – the County Council has recently held a further consultation on its cycling and walking infrastructure plan which includes the proposal for a cycle track between St Bees & Whitehaven. There was a very impressive response from local residents to the previous consultation and this has certainly raised the profile of the project. The Parish Council will continue to do everything it can to press for the project to be included in the County Council's plans.

**Litter bins** – the bin by Stonehouse garden is finally back in place and able to be used for litter and dog waste bags. Litter bins are **not** intended to be used for household waste which should be put into blue bags or wheelie bins for collection by CBC.

**Draft Local Plan** – the draft Copeland Local Plan is in its final stage of consultation before it is submitted to the Secretary of State. The consultation period has been extended until 18 March. Two sites in St Bees continue to be identified for residential development (land to the south of Fairladies & land behind Abbots Court) despite objections from the Parish Council to the inclusion of the land adjacent to Fairladies.

**Parking** – There continue to be problems with parked vehicles obstructing pavements and preventing large vehicles getting to properties in various parts of the village. Please park considerably so pedestrians with pushchairs etc can use the pavements and do not have to walk into the road. Bin lorries and larger vehicles need room to manoeuvre so please do not obstruct junctions or narrow roads.

**Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 21 March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Local residents are always welcome to attend.

## LAWRENCE EDEN

*Designers of Fine Kitchens*

*For stunning kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms*

*We offer the complete service from initial design to full installation*

Unit 1b Sneckyeat Industrial Estate, Whitehaven, CA28 8PF  
01946 67450    [www.lawrenceeden.co.uk](http://www.lawrenceeden.co.uk)

### Hartleys Beach Shop and Café

Refreshments and meals  
served daily  
Shop stocks a wide range of  
groceries and other goods  
And of course the full range  
of our famous ice creams

### REMEDIAL BODYWORK

#### BOWEN THERAPY

Tel: 07832 219400

DAWN MILLS  
Registered Homeopath and Bowen Therapist



[www.dawnmillshomeopathy.com](http://www.dawnmillshomeopathy.com)

#### We Sell & Deliver

Kiln Dried Softwood, Hardwood & Pizza Oven Logs  
BSL Virgin Woodchip - BSL EN Plus A1 Wood Pellets  
Kindling - Coal - Smokeless Fuel - Hotmax Fuel logs  
- Firelighters  
Peat Free Compost - Screened Topsoil  
Decorative Bark & Woodchip - Sawdust

#### Waste Recycling Services

We also offer recycling services for  
green/brush waste and timber.



West Coast  
Composting Ltd  
Wilson Pit Yard  
Wilson Pit Road  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria  
CA28 9QJ



Tel: 01946 328008 or 07795 113434  
Email: [info@westcoastcomposting.co.uk](mailto:info@westcoastcomposting.co.uk)  
Web: [www.west-coast-group.co.uk](http://www.west-coast-group.co.uk)

### MUNCASTER CASTLE & PENNINGTON HOTELS

#### Enjoy a great day out at Muncaster Castle

Castle tours, bird shows and beautiful gardens to visit and enjoy. For up to date information and tickets please visit our website

[www.muncaster.co.uk](http://www.muncaster.co.uk) or call 01229 717614

Why not become a "Friend of Muncaster" a great deal for those living locally who visit regularly.

Calling all lovers of wildlife & birds of prey - Ask us about our adoption packages, a great gift for any bird lover supporting the Hawk & Owl Centre. Donations always welcome for our conservation projects

#### Pennington Hotels

Accommodation and great food can be found at the Pennington Hotel in Ravenglass and Sella Park Country House Hotel at Calderbridge

Both venues offer great food and the perfect place for events and weddings, conference and corporate packages are available. Holiday Cottages available for that perfect staycation and getaway

[www.muncaster.co.uk/staywithus](http://www.muncaster.co.uk/staywithus) or call 01229 717222

We look forward to seeing you soon

## stamperlloyd bathrooms & kitchens

01946 591384

#### PLANNING - DESIGN - INSTALLATION

A family business where quality and customer satisfaction  
is paramount

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Showroom opening times:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5: SATURDAY 9-4

5a Sneckyeat Industrial Estate, Whitehaven, CA28 8PF

## Choose the world you want.

How can I do that, you might ask? There are several ways you can make a big difference to the world and some of its inhabitants. Choose the world you want is the title of this year's Fair Trade Fortnight. So it's easy to choose the world you want by buying from the 6,000 Fair Trade products available.



### Do you like coffee?

When you choose Fairtrade coffee, not only are you enabling farmers to build a better quality of life for their families and communities, they can invest in growing better quality beans too. They can access training to counteract the climate challenges that are no fault of their own. Perhaps you prefer tea? You are in good company.

It is the most popular drink in world, after water. 70,000 cups are drunk every second! But the tea farmers and workers struggle to get a fair deal. 1 in 10 children in the non-fair trade tea growing area of Malawi die before their 1st birthday (100 times the UK).



When you choose fair trade the farmers have the opportunity to diversify and farm in a way that protects the planet. They can invest in clean water, clinical and educational facilities. Sadly, because not enough people buy fair trade tea they can only sell 7% of their tea on Fair trade terms.

### Just about everyone likes chocolate!

However the farmers do not reap the rewards of its popularity, with many experiencing extreme poverty and bearing the brunt of the climate change with extreme weather patterns destroying their crops (parts of West Africa are becoming too hot to grow cocoa.) The young people are voting with their feet and not following in the footsteps of the current cocoa farmers. Fair trade wants to change that. Choose the world you want - choose fair trade chocolate.



Perhaps you want to invest in the future? Explore "shared Interest". They use your capital to invest in projects to enable farmers and artisans to develop their businesses and counteract the effects of climate change. You can remove your investment at any time and choose whether to take your interest, or reinvest it.

If you want to meet the farmers who produce some of the 6,000 Fair Trade products, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/meet-the-fairtrade-farmers/>

Choose the world you want!

Deb Lee

## TRIPLE TTT

### THE KIND OF THE WORK WE CARRY OUT:

Grass & Hedge Cutting ♦ Moss/Weed Control  
Fence Building ♦ Bricklaying ♦ Paving ♦ Roofing  
Rubbish/Garden Waste Removal ♦ Patio/Driveways  
Full Design & Landscaping ♦ Tree Surgery  
♦ Pressure Washing ♦ Patio/Driveway Cleaning  
Window Cleaning ♦ Gutter Cleaning & Installation  
Soffit & Fascia Board Cleaning ♦ Painting

01900 810008

enquiries@triplettt.co.uk ♦ www.triplettt.co.uk

## St Bees Post Office Main Street, St Bees

Newsagent, groceries,

Off-licence, gifts, etc.

Car Tax & Lottery

Tel. (01946) 822343

## Seacote Hotel & Holiday Park

Sunday Lunch 2 Courses - £10.95

Young Diners from £5.95

Bar Meals daily - 5.00 to 8.30 p.m.

Refurbished Function Room ideal for

Weddings - Christmas

Funerals - Meetings

Tel - (01946) 822300

www.seacote.com

email - tom@seacote.com

## Ian Shackley Painter and Decorator

Carpet & Vinyl Fitter, Underlay,

Grippers. Bars supplied

Laminate flooring fitted

Gardening work undertaken

Tel 01946 823050

e-mail ishackley@btinternet.com

## F. IRVING & SON — Funeral Directors —

24hr Personal Service Family Firm Private Chapel of Rest

*A complete funeral service with a modern refurbished funeral home, from a family run business proudly serving the local community.*

*Now in its third generation, with over 60 years of dedicated traditional and caring service.*

COMPLETE FUNERAL PACKAGES / PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS  
(please ask us for details)

152-153 Main Street • Frizington • Cumbria CA26 3SB

Tel 01946 810473

www.irvingsfunerals.com



## St Bees Village School News

We have started a fundraiser with the assistance of our previous Chair of our now (sadly) defunct VSA. The Silver Smarties Challenge is an event which has proved very worthwhile in the past.

Hopefully the children will be enjoying their Smarties before filling the tube with silver coins. I'm sure parents are being very inventive in the ways in which the children can earn these; perhaps by carrying out chores at home, using good manners or even by being kind, caring and sharing.

Our school council are also working with their classmates to come up with possible fundraising events to replace the VSA. We do appreciate your support for our fundraising, as funds raised through these events directly enhances the learning experience within school, through the provision of additional and alternative resources for the children.

As the number of COVID cases in the county appear to be on the decrease, we are becoming more confident that there is light at the end of the tunnel and we were thrilled to be able to invite parents into school for our parent/teacher meetings at the beginning of March. It will be lovely for our teaching staff to finally speak to parents face-to-face and in some cases, put faces to names. We are also planning on the return of after school activity clubs and are hopeful that we will be able to hold an end of term Easter service at the Priory. Looking forward to the Summer term, we do hope that we will be able to hold more events in school, thus returning at long last to some sort of 'normal'. Fingers crossed!

Many thanks for your continued support,

*Emma Sharp, Head teacher*

## St Bees W.I.

I hope you all enjoyed our February speaker, Jo Walker 'Tales from the Convent'. We were all in need of a good laugh after the last two years of the Covid Pandemic, The funny stories came thick and fast all our members and visitors had a great evening. The competition was a Bible or Religious item, a great many interesting things were brought in, the winner was Wendy Mellor, this was followed by raffle and refreshments.

Our next meeting is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel. 'Guess Who'. This is a guessing game! Intrigued! Well briefly, we all write down a humorous or unexpected fact/story, they are put in a box, pulled out at random, read to our group, we all try to match the fact/story with the person linked to it. For example, it could be meeting someone Famous, visiting an unusual place, or a true/unusual event which happened to them or a family member.

Do come along for a fun evening, this months competition is a Spring flower display. This will be followed by Raffle and refreshments. New members and visitors most welcome. Further details [www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI](https://www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI), village notice Boards, or contact Roxanne on 823137.

## Keith Singleton's

### For all your gardening needs

Full range of gardening composts  
and wide choice of plants for house and garden

Open 7 days a week from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Seaview Nurseries  
Nethertown, CA22 2UQ  
01946 820412

[www.keithsingletonhorticulture.com](http://www.keithsingletonhorticulture.com)

## Local Councillors

### Borough Councillor

**Councillor Jeffrey Hailes**

Telephone 01946 814819

[Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

**Councillor Chris Whiteside**

Telephone: 01946 67575 (home) or 07798 667678 (mobile)

[Chris.Whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Stonehouse Farm

Friendly family run B&B located in a large modernised Georgian farmhouse in the centre of St Bees

**Tel. 01946 822224**

[csmith.stonehouse@btinternet.com](mailto:csmith.stonehouse@btinternet.com)

[www.stonehousefarm.net](http://www.stonehousefarm.net)

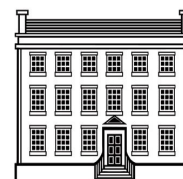


TEL: 01946 592150

PROPRIETOR: S TODD

Unit A23, Haig Enterprise Park,  
Kells, Whitehaven, CA28 9AN

[www.holtsframing.co.uk](http://www.holtsframing.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/holtsframing](https://www.facebook.com/holtsframing)



# Brockbanks Solicitors

A Family Oriented Firm, Providing High Levels of Service & Attention to Detail

- Will writing & Probate Services • Accident Claims (no win, no fee)
- Buying and Selling a Property • Commercial Contracts & Leases
- Crime & Motoring • Employment • Family & Matrimonial
- Lasting Powers of Attorney

To make an appointment, please contact our Whitehaven office on  
(01946) 692194. Home visits also available.

COCKERMOUTH

01900 827222

MARYPORT

01900 813488

WORKINGTON

01900 603563

CARLISLE

01228 521383

Also KESWICK as Oglethorpe & Broatch 01768 772125

[www.brockbanks.co.uk](http://www.brockbanks.co.uk)

## “Diabolical Incendiaries” in St. Bees

Last month’s History page told of the beginnings of “Grindal”, the large building opposite the Station which began life as “The Royal” (or sometimes “The Railway”) Hotel. That was in 1847, but thanks to some persons who clearly didn’t want it there, It very nearly didn’t begin at all.



The local paper told the story:

*“We are really grieved to hear that an attempt has within the past week been made by some diabolical incendiaries to destroy by fire the new Railway Hotel at St. Bees. So early as nine o’clock in the evening the villains had commenced operations by forcing out the masonry of an outer doorway in order to gain admission, and this work accomplished they had afterwards forced their way into a room in which there were some oil, turpentine and other articles belonging to the painters who were engaged in painting the interior of the building, the whole of which they set on fire, after having laid some trains of gunpowder which they had no doubt calculated would materially aid in the destruction of the premises. Luckily the fire was discovered about eleven o’clock, by John Jones Esq. who resides in Lonsdale Terrace, and an alarm having been immediately given large bodies of the inhabitants rushed to the scene of conflagration, and by great exertions, having an ample supply of water to hand, the flames were got under, but not until considerable damage had been sustained by the interior woodwork of the building. It will be seen from our advertising columns that a reward of £150 has been offered for the discovery and conviction of the offenders - £100 by the Phoenix Fire Office Company, by whom the property is insured, and £50 by Mr. Tyson, the owner of the building. We are glad to hear that there is every probability of the diabolical scoundrels being brought to justice, and never certainly were men more richly deserving*

### The Albert Hotel

1 Finkle Street, St Bees

#### Free House

B&B Accommodation available  
Home made Sunday Lunches &  
Evening Meal  
Small Parties welcome  
Dining Room always open  
**01946 822345**

### Afternoon Tea at Stone House Farm, St Bees

by B’s Bakes

Booking essential  
Birthday, Anniversary and Wedding Cakes  
Tray bakes, lots of varieties  
Special birthdays and children’s  
parties catered for

Contact Jo Beattie

07564 936754 / 01946 822224

j.beattie.stonehouse@outlook.com



## CUMBERLAND STOVE SERVICES

- Stove and Fireplace Installation
- Flue Lining
- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Maintenance and Repair
- FREE NO OBLIGATION  
SURVEY AND ESTIMATE

Email: [enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk)

Tel: 01900 268737 Mob: 07702112406



# JJ HRYB

## Plumbing & Heating

Bathrooms, showers, wet-rooms  
Underfloor heating  
General plumbing requirements

### Installation and servicing of gas and oil fired central heating and appliances



307154



C3945

Irton, Holmrook, Cumbria  
tel: 019467 24175  
mobile: 07855 806637  
[john@hrybltd.com](mailto:john@hrybltd.com)



## St Bees School

### Students celebrate the Year of the Tiger with Chinese New Year celebrations

St Bees School have been celebrating Chinese New Year as the lunar calendar shifts from the Year of the Ox to the Year of the Tiger.

St Bees School, which has three sister schools in China, enjoyed a variety of fun and exciting activities throughout the first week of the festival. From delicious Chinese foods for lunch and making their own traditional Chinese New Year dumplings, to performing their own rendition of the story of the Chinese Zodiac for St Bees Village School.



On Tuesday 1st February, the day of Chinese New Year, the school enjoyed a day of celebrations. With corridors, classrooms and the dining hall decorated with Chinese lanterns and other New Year decorations, students and staff were treated to a delicious Chinese fest for lunch, including noodle soup, beef chow mein, shredded duck in hoisin sauce and more.

Year 6 students from St Bees Village School joined the celebrations after lunch, sitting down to a student-led production by Year 9, telling the story of the Chinese Zodiac animals. Ian, who is from Hong Kong, taught the students the Chinese words for each of the animals, and held a question and answer session where he opened the floor to questions the children may have for the “animals”.

They then took part in three Chinese-themes activities; New Year dumpling making, Chinese calligraphy with students Stephanie and Ryan and ended the afternoon creating red envelopes. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit, especially taking their dumplings, calligraphy and chocolate coin-filled red pockets home.

Students at St Bees were able to enjoy creating their own dumplings with Ms Hou during their Chinese lessons to round off the week. Each class enjoyed learning the process of creating the dough and filling, and how to properly fold and cook the dumplings.

Sophia in Year 7 really enjoyed the experience. She commented “It was fascinating to see how dumplings are made from start to finish. They were absolutely delicious, and it’s great that we had the opportunity to make our own and eat them! It was very difficult to just have one!”

## Oddfellows Arms

92 Main Street

St Bees

Charity Quiz

1st Wednesday of each month

Small parties by arrangement

Tel. (01946) 822317

## St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts)

Available for occasional or regular hire

WiFi, broadband, 55” TV Screen

Small stage, lighting and sound systems

A licensed bar can be provided

Charges: £12 per hour, max £50 per session.

Discount for regular bookings

For more details and availability

Contact Bookings Secretary: 01946 823772



## High House Cottage

St. Bees

Ideal base for holidays or family visits

Sleeps 7 in 4 lovely bedrooms

Facebook.com/highhousecottage

@highhousecottage\_stbees

Stephen 07834 040 079

Highhousecottage@hotmail.com

## COINS WANTED BY SERIOUS COLLECTOR



**Sovereigns**  
Paying at the moment  
a minimum of £220

If you have collectable coins of any nationality, tokens, medals, bank notes, jewellery you wish to sell, please contact Tom on 01946 841972,

I have been a numismatist since 1968 and offer generous

and fair prices for material for sale.

For each and any transaction I will donate a set %age to St. Bees church funds.

## Diabolical Incendiaries - Continued

*of punishment than the heartless characters who could thus deliberately and wantonly destroy the property of an unoffending party”.*

(Cumberland Pacquet and Ware’s Whitehaven Advertiser, 28<sup>th</sup>. December 1847)

Whether the culprits were ever caught I do not at present know. Certainly there is nothing in the next two years’ papers to suggest that they were. I hope, however, to take the story a little further in next month’s magazine.

*Bob Jopling, Village History Group*

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER David Hopkinson IFA Ltd

### We give advice on

- reviewing your existing investments
- making a new investment
- how to draw your pension
- protecting your assets from inheritance tax
- funding for long term care fees

### Expert advice - Value for money

Home appointments available – free initial meeting

The Old Vicarage, Newton Arlosh, Wigton, CA7 5ET

016973 52446

[www.davidhopkinsonifa.co.uk](http://www.davidhopkinsonifa.co.uk)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

# robinson+co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

[www.robinsonco.co.uk](http://www.robinsonco.co.uk)

- Independent Financial Advice ■ Book-keeping Services
- Planning for the Future ■ New Business Advice
- Retirement Planning ■ Payroll services ■ Sage Software
- Investments ■ Accountancy ■ Taxation ■ Audit

Offices in Whitehaven, Workington & Gosforth

Tel: 01900 603623, 01946 692423 or 019467 25808



Registered to carry on audit work in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for investment business

## Milburns Solicitors

you don't have to go  
out  
of the area for  
**specialist  
legal advice**  
Milburns have the  
**local solution**

25/26 Church Street  
WHITEHAVEN  
01946 694818  
[www.milburns.org](http://www.milburns.org)

Need specialist advice?  
Get in touch!



ST BEES SCHOOL  
WHERE WEST MEETS EAST  
DAY & BOARDING  
Ages 11 - 18



The UK's ONLY Fusion Curriculum  
... call today!

+44 (0) 1946 828000 [admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk)  
[stbeesschool.co.uk](http://stbeesschool.co.uk)

### 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/>



***The Annual Parochial Church Meeting APCM*** will be held with Morning Service on Sunday 3 April at 10.30 am in the Priory with PCC elections & reports from Priory organisations. Reports to be emailed to the PCC secretary, Rebecca Rendell - [r.e.rendell@gmail.com](mailto:r.e.rendell@gmail.com) by Sunday 13 March please.

### ***Priory Flower Rota for March***

March – Lent – No flowers      27<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday – Posies  
Posies will be made by the team of helpers on Saturday 26 March in the Priory from 9.30 am. Note:- “Year-at-a-glance” rota is on the notice board at the back of church.

***Friends of the Priory Talk*** – The first event of the year will be a Talk on ‘Elementary Food’ by Philip Barratt – happening on Friday 18 March at 7.30pm in New College Hall. Refreshments served too. All welcome. The Friends Annual newsletter for 2021 was recently emailed/posted to all our members with sincere thanks for their generous support. Subscriptions for 2022 are welcomed this month by the treasurer Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees at the modest sum of £5 per person; £8 per couple. Grateful thanks to all those sending subs & donations. Next committee meeting Wednesday 16 March. 7.00 pm New College Hall.

### ***St Bees Seagalls***

The Seagalls’ regular monthly meeting at The Seacote Hotel was very well attended on 1st February and it was lovely to welcome so many new faces. Unfortunately Shenda Whelan was unable to attend and Jo from Lakeland Lights very kindly stepped in at short notice.

Lakeland Lights is a relatively new company set up by Jo and her partner. They currently run it from a factory unit in Cleator Moor and produce and sell soy wax based scented candles and melts. Soy wax is a natural based product and so is environmentally friendly and is a better product to use for those with allergies.

You may have seen the products in local shops eg Flower Basket and The Gather at Ennerdale. Products can also be bought directly online and Jo will deliver locally free.

The candles are named after local areas including our very own St. Bees, Whitehaven Harbour, Honister and Scafell Pike amongst others. They endeavour to make the scent relevant to the area, e.g. the Whitehaven Harbour candle has an undertone of rum scents. All the Seagalls received a gift of three wax melts. You can visit Lakeland Lights website at [www.lakelandlights.co.uk](http://www.lakelandlights.co.uk). A very big thank you to Jo from us all and for her generous donation of £40 to Wasdale Mountain Rescue in lieu of a fee.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st March at the Queens Hotel in the village. We will be having a Quiz night commencing 7.30pm preceded by sandwiches and chips at 6.30pm for those who would like to join us.

Given that this is an external venue to our usual meet up at the Seacote where anyone is welcome to just turn up - please can you ring the contact number to book, see details in the back of the magazine,, or for existing members see our WhatsApp notifications. You are very welcome to join us.

### ***Grassroots***

***Over 60s Club:*** GOOD NEWS: we are back. Over 60s will start again on the 8th of March in the Hodgetts Club at 2pm. We are having a Bingo afternoon. We look forward to seeing all our old members and hopefully some new ones too.

On March 22nd we are going to the Seacote Hotel for sandwiches and chips, 1.30 pm for 2 pm. If you wish to go please let either me or Dot Amor know. Gill - 822394 or Dot 822622. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

### ***These Hills Are Ours by Daniel and Boff Whalley,***

St Bees Village Hall ( Hodgetts) on Saturday 12th March at 7.30 pm .

### ***Do you ever want to run away from it all ?***

In story and in song, ‘These Hills are Ours’ is the story of what Dan and Boff found out on their journeys from the city centre to the top of the peak overlooking the city. It’s about escaping from it all by running to wild places. Escaping from the city, escaping from the restrictions of upbringing or class or politics. It’s a celebration of wild places and our freedom to roam them.

Daniel Bye’s award- winning, internationally touring theatre is always engaging, thought-provoking and entertaining. Boff Whalley, best known as a founder member of Chumbawamba, writes heartfelt, catchy folk songs. This, their first theatre piece together, sees them moving into their most personal material yet. It’s a not-to-be missed collaboration between two of Britain’s most celebrated artists in their own fields.

Tickets £10 ( adult) £5 ( u 18) £22 ( family) from Claire Hale ( 07740717481) or email [chale025@gmail.com](mailto:chale025@gmail.com) or online [kirkgatearts.org.uk](http://kirkgatearts.org.uk). Sponsored by Arts Out West.

**Notice of AGM:** The St Bees Village Hall Management Committee will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall All welcome.

### ***Correction.***

Philip Barratt points out that there were errors in the paragraph about Keith Hayes in the February magazine: it should read:-

Sincere Sympathy is extended to the family and friends mourning the passing of Keith Hayes of Whitehaven, a dearly loved husband, father, son and brother, who died at home after a brave fight against an aggressive cancer over recent months. Keith’s family was known to many friends at church. – as the husband of chorister Clare (niece of Philip and Maureen Barratt), and dad of Lucy and Rhys both baptised in the Priory, and son-in-law of Christopher and Joyce Shaw. We keep them all in our hearts and minds and treasure our memories of a remarkable young man and his cherished family.

## *Grassroots*

### **Lent Lunches in March**

You are invited to come and share a tasty meal (home-made soup with bread & cheese) with friends – in aid of our chosen charities. This will be in New College Hall from 12 noon to 2.00 pm as follows:-

Saturday 12 March Hosts: combined Pop-In servers team  
Saturday 19 March Hosts: Anne Ross, Joan Wadey, Joan Edgar & team  
Saturday 26 March Hosts: Gill Burgess, Bakers, Bushbys & team  
Saturday 2 April Hosts: Wendy Mellor, Derek & Mary McGee and team  
Saturday 9 April Hosts: Sally Kennedy, Gay Bettinson, and team

Do join us in a good cause (two in fact) and bring a friend. Donations this year will go to NSPCC (the St Bees branch) and Save the Children. Everyone is most welcome.

**Priory 900 Years+ Embroidery project continues** – The embroidered panel, designed to celebrate 900 years of worship in the Priory, continues to be worked on with leaders Dorothy Smith and Pam Argyle and the dedicated team of ladies stitching weekly, or twice weekly, on the project for many months. The work, all done by hand, has been delayed by the various lockdowns but it progresses steadily. Everyone is looking forward to the completion of this wonderful work of art and meantime we all extend our sincere thanks to the Embroidery Group for their meticulous and beautiful work.

**Cornerstone Bookstall at Pop-In** – Please note that the Cornerstone Bookshop will be at Pop-In café on Thursday 10 March, with Lent & Easter books and cards for sale.

**Toilet-Twinning Fundraising Appeal** – Two years ago at Pop-In Café Sally Kennedy started the appeal at the Priory to ‘spend a penny’ or to collect bags of 1ps & 2ps & 5ps to raise £60 for one new toilet in an African country with very limited sanitation or vital facilities. After raising the required funds, the country of Zambia was chosen (where Michelle Proctor serves as a medical missionary nurse) and we hope to soon display the certificate. Then Pop-In will start collecting pennies again! The framed certificate is now displayed at the Priory – declaring in small print a major fact that one in four people in the world have no toilet. The TEAR fund charity has initiated this scheme.

**Special Choral Evensong for the Emergency Services** – Sunday 20 March at 4.00 pm in the Priory - a Thanksgiving for the work of Fire, Police, Ambulance, RNLI, Mountain Rescue, Blood Bikes, and First Responders will be held on Sunday 20 March followed by a buffet tea. All Welcome.

## *St Bees Green Future*

St Bees Green Future met via Zoom on 25th January. At the meeting we agreed to take swap events in St Bees forward, initially trying a clothes swap, and to take first steps to set up a local repair café, possibly joining forces with Egremont to make it more viable. We agreed to wait till the autumn to hold a community cook event when there would likely be surplus produce from gardens and allotments in the village. The group also discussed the possibility of organising a village-wide yard sale/give-away one weekend this year, as a further way to help declutter while keeping items out of landfill.

## *Priory Singers*

Priory Singers have re-started. We are a small friendly choir who meet every Monday evening during term time in Old College Hall from 7.30 to 9 pm. If you enjoy singing and think you would like to join us please come along and sample the range of music we sing. New members are always welcome.

We ask you to please:

Wear a mask until we start singing.

Sanitise your hands when you arrive.

Leave the distanced chairs in the position you find them.

We can guarantee an enjoyable evening.

## *Kelvin Knight Cycle challenge for Samaritans:*

Some of you may have seen me cycling around and around and around our village and wondered what I was doing. Was I getting dizzy? Maybe I was lost? Yes and no. I am cycling around our lovely village for charity. I am aiming to cycle 25km a day, come rain or shine.

The challenge I have accepted is to cycle 5000 miles from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, which is nearly six times the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats! This is my first cycling challenge, so I hope you can help support me.

The charity I have chosen to support is Samaritans because whatever you are facing, whatever life has done to you, they will face it with you, 24/7, 365 days a year. You can phone Samaritans free on 116123 or email [jo@samartians.org](mailto:jo@samartians.org). Every £5 raised has the power to answer a potentially life-saving call. My target is to raise £5000. I have set up a Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/Kelvin-Knight5](http://www.justgiving.com/Kelvin-Knight5) where you can find more details of my cycling story, along with monthly updates which are verified electronically.





The Priory's aims for the "Care Deeply" part of the vision are to listen to our local communities, develop effective partnerships with other groups and organisations, encourage prophetic voices, challenging unjust structures and systems and equip peace-makers and reconcilers in all spheres of life. One way we seek to do this is through worshipping and socialising together. In early 2020 we hosted a popular service of Choral Evensong for the emergency services in Copeland and we plan to do

this again on the 20th March at 4pm. Afternoon tea will be served after the service and there will be a retiring collection in support of St Bees Priory.

Invites have gone out to the Police, Fire and Rescue service, North West Ambulance, RNLI, Coastguard, Wasdale Mountain Rescue, St Johns Ambulance, Whitehaven hospital and First Responders. Please do share this invite with anyone you know who falls into this category or is a supporter of the emergency services in our local area. And let us know if you plan to come along.

I will be wearing my robes for this service so it won't be obvious that I'm only going to wear ten items of clothing for Lent (with some exceptions) For seven weeks I'll be wearing just ten items of clothing, raising money to help people around the world stand up to the climate crisis and lift themselves out of poverty.

The fashion industry generates more harmful CO2 emissions than all international flights and shipping combined. This contributes to climate change – making extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and storms more frequent and more severe. And it's people living in poverty who are suffering the consequences.

'The water level is increasing day by day,' says Lamuchi, a fishman from Bangladesh. 'Floods are happening very often. When I was a boy, I can remember that floods did not even occur once within five years. But now, floods take place here three to four times every year.'

So please support me in The Great Fashion Fast and help push back against poverty and the climate crisis.

To donate go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/beckys-the-great-fashion-fast> or contact me to find out more.



*Reverend Becky*

## A Vision for the Churches in Cumbria

### The Priory perspective



#### Tread gently: Eco Church

St Bees is aiming to become an Eco Church. What does this mean? It is much more than just ensuring that our energy is efficient and ecofriendly. Its about the church and community deciding to live in a way that promotes harmony, social and ecological.

A few of us are working with St Bees Green Future. Initially it is about the simple, ecological things to do: Increase the recycling options, help collect litter, plant bee and butterfly friendly plants in the garden.



As we gain in confidence, we hope to run some social events to encourage planet friendly activities such as community walks or cycle rides or perhaps table top swap shops (social and ecological).

Being a grade 1 listed building has its challenges in becoming an Eco Church, but if Salisbury Cathedral can get a gold award, I am sure St Bees can too!

In the meantime, if you want to recycle that soft "springy" plastic that covers fruit and veg, cakes, bread etc and can't get to Tesco or the Co-op to do it, you can now leave it in the green bin in the doorway of the Priory. ("Springy" means of you scrunch it up and it pops out again, its just what we want!) In the same bin you can also recycle clean aluminum foil of any size. We will collect it until it is enough to go in a big tight ball into the tin recycling!

Please let Deb Lee, John Kennedy, Hilary Hemm, Amy Linton or Susan Sanderson know if you want to join us or have ideas about what we should be doing. We are particularly looking for GREEN ideas to celebrate her Majesty, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

*Deb Lee*

### The Vicarage Community Walled Garden

We aim to "Tread Gently" and to garden in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. In the last few years volunteers from the parish have gathered to clear the overgrown areas, weed, plant, harvest fruit and veg and put up a shed. For the last two years we have grown a few flowers to distribute on Mothering Sunday and to add to church displays. This year we plan to plant more blooms to supplement church flowers. The carbon footprint of flowers arrangements is a topical issue—the use of non-biodegradable floral foam was raised at General Synod and was reported in the national press.



## Lent and Easter 2022—A Season for Gladness, Gratitude and Generosity

Last year the Church of England shared resources to celebrate Gratitude and Generosity in the parishes to coincide with Harvest. In order to make the most of these resources the “Coast to Fells” Mission Community are extending “Generosity week” to a season of sermons, weekday services and activities this Lent and Easter.



Look out for the nine ideas for Generous actions over nine days on the Mission Community facebook page including being ready to give something small away to someone who may need it and saying “hello” to someone you’ve never spoken to before.

*May our gratitude fill us with gladness, and our gladness with generosity.*

 **Speak Boldly** *Amen*

### “A Still Small Voice”

*1 Kings 19 v 11 -19*

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. <sup>13</sup> And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

“Speaking Boldly” is often called for in our lives. In family life we will often have to speak out in the middle of breakfast confusion and schoolwork or preparation for someone to own up as to where they left the car keys. No one is listening, they are all set on their own course. They are not being rude or selfish they are simply focussed on their immediate problems or challenges. Speaking boldly has little to do in this context with what you are trying to say ..... you are in fact simply trying to be noticed. Volume is probably more important than nuanced content!

Of course you cannot be a visitor to many homes before you hear the comment that a husband/ grandad (usually male) is hard of hearing – so when you caringly approach the individual and speak loudly/boldly the immediate response is.....“there’s no need to shout – I’m not deaf”! This is usually followed by a non-attributable remark that he hears when he wants to!

Naturally, bold speaking is called for in the giving of orders in a disaster situation or an instant note of alarm when an approaching hazard is noticed, and people have to be warned.

I was really embarrassed to note recently in a broadcast that I was singing “a little too boldly” in a church service.....in certain contexts bold exclamation needs to be tempered by careful listening?

Bold speaking of course does not only focus upon volume, but it also refers to difficult content and sometimes the harsh truth of what we have to say can crush, disable, or totally collapse the morale and welfare of the listener. The truth can be so harsh that it alienates the recipient to the extent that they are disabled from reacting.

If the loud, the brash the bold attracts our attention and in terms of powerful influences we think that it is perhaps the most effective means of communicating.



Certainly Elijah and whoever wrote the narrative we now read, did initially think the Divine voice or message was found in the loudest, strongest natural noises that he could experience – just until of course, God actually spoke in “a still small voice”.

That moment of revelation, insight came boldly into his heart/soul, but it was gentle upon his ear and entered his soul with a power and beauty that transcended all other sounds.

So it is perhaps with the Church and its message. Yes there is the place for the bold word of truth, justice, righteousness in the face of human sin, wickedness and all the associated evils you can imagine. But the revelation of God is shared with the soul in gentle compassion and peace and it is that which turns us around and causes us to walk to the entrance of the cave in which we like Elijah have hidden to be shown the world as the Lord sees it.

So yes, we are called to campaign, to speak up in the face of injustice, cruelty, prejudice, or corruption. Speaking boldly, but not always loudly and being mindful as to why we speak – it is not to condemn, to hurt, to take revenge – but to heal, to bring salvation to the soul, new hope to broken lives and so this bold speaking can be delivered in almost total silence – simply by presence, prayer and faithful companionship which can be trusted, leaned upon and found to be within easy reach. This may be by way of abiding friendship through thick and thin, a smile in a time of tears, a hand taken and held or a shoulder to be cried upon on. I was once told the most helpful thing I did was to turn up and – shut up!

So let’s perhaps just promise to turn up during for others this Lent and listen to that still small voice?

*The Rev’d Richard Lee, Rural Dean Calder*