

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088)

Associate Priest of St Bees Priory

Rural Dean of Calder

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

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

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

Sunday Services in Church

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

9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family)

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays Holy Communion - 10.30 am

2nd and 4th Sundays Morning Worship - 10.30 am

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (1st - Evensong, 4th - Communion)

Services are also Live Streamed

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

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

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

Hire of Priory & Halls

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

Booking Officers

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

Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

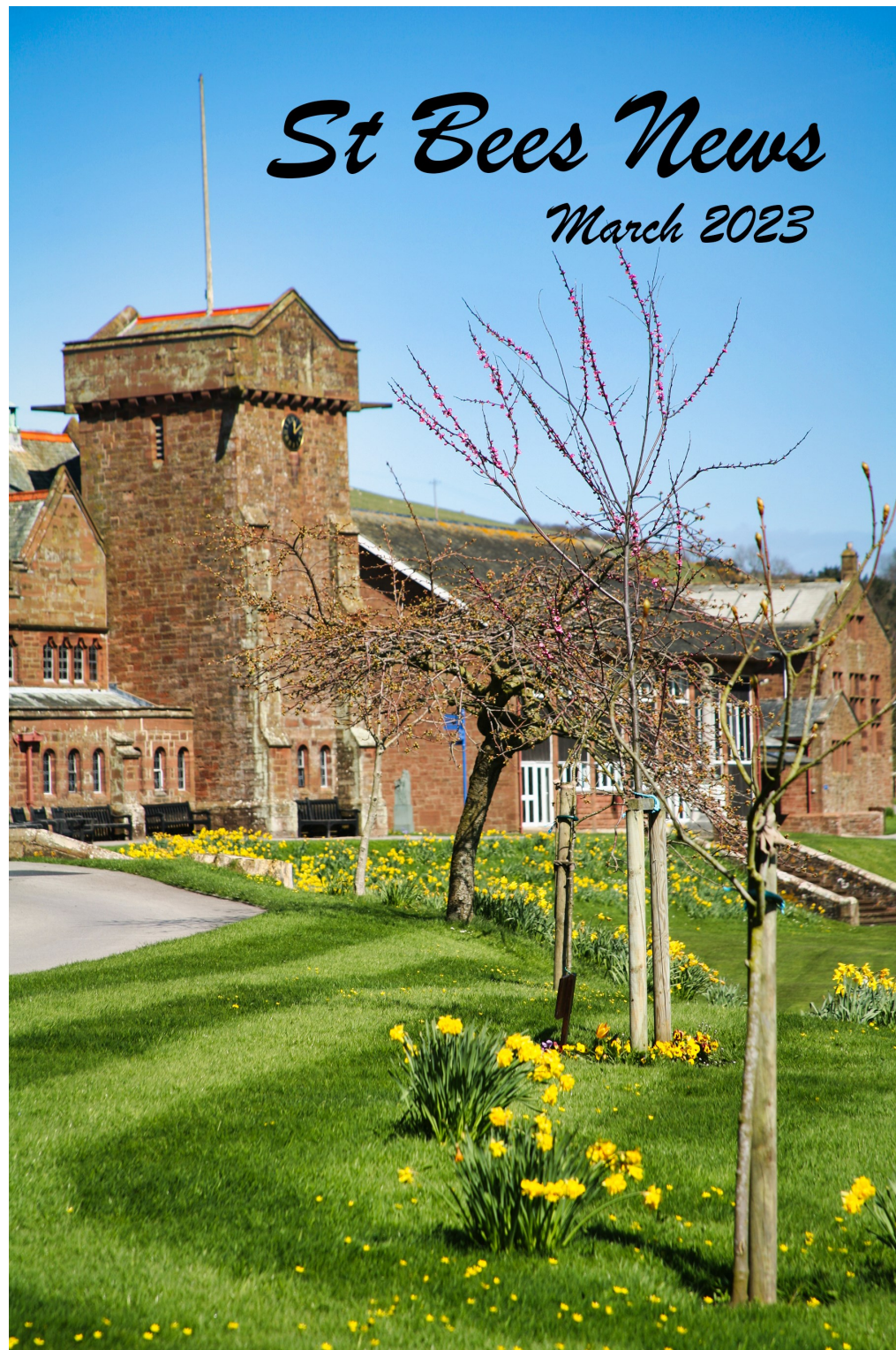
This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs. However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

Circulation - over 1,000 households in St Bees Parish

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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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 - TBA.
Arts Society	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 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.
Scouts, Beavers	1st Beckermert & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.30 pm Both groups meet in CCF huts at St Bees School.
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Tom Kelly.
Councillors	Copeland - Cllr Jeffrey Hailes- 01946 814819, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m Monday to Friday. Cumbria - Cllr Chris Whiteside, 01946 67575 or 07798667678. E-mail chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk
Electoral Roll	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
Fair Trade	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
First Responders	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
Football Association	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk .
Friends of the Priory	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees,
Garden Society	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

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, Coughton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - r.e.rendell@gmail.com , 07977 096426.
Playgroup (Toddler Group)	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from Katy Privilege, - Email - katyprivilege_89@outlook.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	Currently not meeting. Contact Susan Sanderson for information.
Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
Priory Web Site	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk
Rangers	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact calderdivision@gmail.com for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact 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	Currently not meeting.
Village School Association	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Village in Bloom	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522).
Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

Calendar for March

1	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Friends Committee Meeting, NCH
2	Thursday	9.45 am	Lent Quiet Communion, Lady Chapel (for Thursdays in Lent)
4	Saturday	12- 2pm	First Lent Lunch, New College Hall (in aid of UNICEF & NSPCC)
		5.00 pm	Family Film Night, 'Frozen 2', Priory
5	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
7	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Club, Hodgetts
		7.00 pm	Seagalls Meeting, Seacote Hotel
10	Friday	2.30 pm	Amnesty West Cumbria AGM, Crosshill House
11	Saturday	12- 2pm	Second Lent Lunch, New College Hall
12	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
13	Monday	7.30 pm	WI AGM & General Quiz, Seacote Hotel
		7.30 pm	Priory Singers restarts, Old College Hall
14	Tuesday	7.00 pm	PCC Meeting, NCH
17	Friday	7.30 pm	Dr Claire Summers Talk, NCH, 'Teaching in Tanzania Hospital'
18	Saturday	9.30-11 am	Making Posies for Mothering Sunday, Priory
		12 -2.00pm	Third Lent Lunch, NCH (in aid of UNICEF & NSPCC)
19	Sunday	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday service (with Orchestra & Posies)
25	Saturday	10,00 am	Beach Clean, meet at Lifeboat Station
		12 -2.00pm	Fourth Lent Lunch, NCH
26	Sunday	9.00 am	Family Story Service, Priory
		10.30 am	Morning Worship
29	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Arts Society Lecture by Mike Fossey, Business Centre
31	Friday	4.30 - 6pm	Friday Fun, Priory (food, crafts, story & songs)

April

1	Saturday	12 - 2.00pm	Last Lent Lunch, NCH
		7.30 pm	West Cumb. Choral Society Concert, Priory
2	Sunday	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Communion service (palm crosses & cross buns)
29	Saturday	Evening	Copeland Labour Party Ceilidh & Hotpot Supper, Seacote Hotel

Editor – April 2023 Magazine

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

Email: amyinton1983@gmail.com Tel: 01946 447614

St Bees News

March 2023

“Our mother, who art in heaven...”

I wonder what you think of when you imagine God?

Maybe your religion cautions you about bringing such an image to mind? Or maybe you don't believe God exists so there's nothing to imagine? If you're a Christian it may be that you think of Jesus, or a king upon a heavenly throne or an old guy on a cloud with a beard. In his book “Wonder, love and praise” the methodist Neil Dixon wrote “what we say to, and about, the God we worship must reflect and express our theological understanding.” In other words, the language we use matters. It's my belief that centuries of theological misunderstanding have led Christians to say and believe that God is male. It's easy to see how we got to this place. God is described as “Father”, and Jesus, God incarnate, was male so it makes sense to use “he” here. But often Christians refer to the Holy Spirit or the Creator, neither of which are gendered, using the male pronoun.

Now you might say to me “Becky, this is all just woke nonsense” but I encourage you to not dismiss this out of hand, let's put to one side the sensationalist newspaper headlines, at least for the month of March.

On Sunday 19th we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday in the Priory alongside the international charity the “Mothers Union”. This charity aims to strengthen communities by enabling women and caregivers to flourish. On Mothering Sunday we focus on the more feminine or motherly aspects of God and the words of the prophet Isaiah may be read that day “*As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.*” For some, these words are deeply reassuring. Most of us have gratefully received or generously given comfort to another, if not from a mother then from a mother figure.

Gendered language goes some way toward expressing the fullness of God's nature but it is imperfect and incomplete. Off the top of my head I can think of so many other ways that the scripture writers understood God; rock, fortress, mother hen, eagle, cloud, fire, sword, light, counsellor, friend, breath...to name just a few.

In God, we find maleness and femaleness, mother and father, parent and child, cloud and light, speech and silence. Ultimately, we find in God all that we see in ourselves and in the great variety of humanity that populates our globe. Could it be that to deny the motherhood of God, is to reject part of God and God's creation?

With love from Reverend Becky

International women's day is on 8th March - www.unwomen.org/en

Priory News

Good News! Lent & Easter events will be happen as usual – in March we look forward to Mothering Sunday and Lent Lunches, and in early April we celebrate Holy Week in worship and music.

Also two Friends of the Priory events have been arranged in March – a Family Film Night at the Priory on Saturday 4 March and Dr Claire Summers presentation on Friday evening of 17 March.

Mothering Sunday service - A special All-Age service with Communion will be held on Sunday 19 March at 10.30 am with the Village/Priory Orchestra playing for us. Posies of springtime flowers will be given by children and teens or anyone, to their mums and grans – indeed to all ladies in church and more to spare for those at home!

Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday – This will be happening in the Priory on Saturday morning from 9.30 to 11.00 am. Do come along and help prepare the posies! If possible please bring spring flowers, or heathers and greenery too. Details from Rosalie McAndrew (tel. 822326).

Weekly Lent Communion service will be held on Thursday mornings in March at 9.45 am in the Lady Chapel, before Pop-In starts. All welcome to attend – on 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March.

The Priory Singers

We are taking a break through the worst of the winter, returning with the spring flowers in March. Then, like the birds in springtime, we'll find our voices and burst into song again.

When the time comes, we'll hope to bring in some new people. Would you like to join us? Don't worry if you're not too confident on reading music - you'll be with experienced singers who will pull you along. And we sing a good variety from ancient to modern (madrigals to Beatles) and from sentimental to silly ("Blue Moon" to "Christopher Robin is saying his prayers"), but never dreary.

We're quite a jolly bunch who sing for pleasure, not for high art, though it does come out pretty well mostly. Oh; and there's always a contingent going to the Queen's Hotel for more merriment afterwards.

If you'd like to talk about it, you can telephone Jack Hale on 01946 822409. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 in Old College Hall. The first meeting will be on March 13th. We hope you can join us.

Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for the Turkey & Syria Disaster

The appeal will be ongoing in March at the Priory – the red bucket will be ready for your donations at the back of church. Do please use the gift-aid envelopes if possible.

Parish Council News

Beach Cleans- The next organised beach clean is on Saturday 25th March, meeting at 10am by the lifeboat station. This litter pick is part of the Great British Spring Clean. Litter pickers, gloves and bags are provided. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees beach clean.

Antisocial Behaviour – There have recently been several further incidents of antisocial behaviour around the village. The police are aware of all the incidents and are investigating. It is important that all incidents are reported to the police so that they are aware of the full picture. If you see damage, graffiti etc or witness any antisocial behaviour, please report it via the police 101 number or email 101@cumbria.police.uk

Coronation Celebrations- The Parish Council is setting up a small group to look at celebrations to mark the Coronation in May. If any groups within the parish are planning celebration events, we would love to hear about them to coordinate plans.

Local Government Reorganisation- Both Copeland Borough Council & Cumbria County Council will cease to exist on 31 March when the new Cumberland Council comes into being. Residents should notice little change as services will continue as before but provided by the new council. The Cumberland Councillor representing the St Bees/ Egremont North Ward will be Graham Minshaw (email graham.minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk)

New Election Rules – There will be no district or county council elections in Cumbria this year but there will be parish council elections on Thursday 4 May. In St Bees all 14 seats on the Parish Council are up for election. If you are interested in standing for election, the Clerk would be happy to provide information on the role of a parish councillor.

The new UK Government requirements mean that people must show photo ID, when voting at a polling station. Acceptable forms of identification are a passport, driving licence, Blue Badge, an identity card with a PASS mark, certain concessionary travel cards, a biometric immigration document, a defence identity card and a national identity card.

Those who don't have photo ID, can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, by 5pm on April 25, at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate If you require a Voter Authority Certificate and are unable to apply online contact Copeland Council on 01946 598300 or email info@copeland.gov.uk.

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

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Holy Week & Easter services in first week of April

Palm Sunday service will be held on 2nd April at 10.30 am with Holy Communion & Procession.

Palm Crosses will be distributed to worshippers at Sunday services that day. Cross Buns & Oranges will also be given to children and teens, and to anyone who wishes to partake!

Tuesday 4 April – Walk with the Cross leaves Egremont R.C. Church at 6.30 pm, arriving at the Priory at 7.30 pm for a short service. Refreshments served. Organised by Egremont & District Churches.

Wednesday 5 April – Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion at the Priory! Details to follow.

Maundy Thursday 6 April – Holy Week Organ Recital of sacred music by Frank Bowler – at midday.

Maundy Thursday Communion service at 7.00 pm.

7 April Good Friday Meditation – Three Hours at the Cross – please come and go as you wish.

From the Priory Registers

Holy Baptism

15 January Lenny Andrew Heague 16 Fairladies, St Bees

Christian Funeral

10 February Nicola Corrie Fairladies Barn Guest House, St Bees

May God's blessing be upon you and your families.

Priory Flower Rota in March

Lent No flowers 19 March Mothering Sunday Posies

2 April Palm Sunday – Palms 9 April Easter Day - Pat Crichton

Sincere Sympathy

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Evelyn Percival of Abbeyvale who died recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Bill Woods of Station Road who died suddenly at home on 13 February. We keep his family in our prayers.

Thanks

Many thanks to the people of Newtown, Sandwith for their kind donations of £120 to the St Bees News and to their distributor Susan Ashburner. Much appreciated.

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Village History - Annie Walker, Haberdasher

I had meant last year's history articles to be the last about Finkle Street and its shops. But I am being asked again whether anything is known of a long-vanished drapery store in that area

This would be the little shop run in her later years by Miss Annie Walker. She was one of the daughters of the Walker family of St. Bees, which by the end of Victorian times was widely known for its range of Preserves, Pickles and Flours. Annie, however, had little to do with that side of the business.

Her shop operated entirely separately from 6 Finkle Street, shown on the extreme left of this photograph. By the date it was taken (1920s?) number 6 was serving as Brownrigg's Cab office. Before that, under Annie Walker's care, it had long been the source in St. Bees for general haberdashery, as well as for the uniform required by the Free Grammar School. Both Irene Patterson and her brother had assisted with the shop, and Irene has left us an account of Annie's occasional "Shilling Bundle" Sales. Apparently they were popular, despite being something of a gamble – for customers could discover what their chosen bundles contained only after parting with their shillings.



Haberdashery apart, the shop sold a range of household or ornamental goods. I have some china bowls delicately hand-painted in the shop by Annie herself. They bear her signature and the date 1909. At the rear of the shop she kept a small lending library – the charge being one penny per book, per week. Probably the least borrowed books ended inside Shilling Bundles!

The Church's magazine makes it clear that Annie was active in Priory matters. Her shop was used often as a collecting and distributing point, and it is easy to imagine it becoming a favoured meeting place for similarly-minded ladies with time on their hands

As a child Annie is said to have had masses of strikingly blonde or auburn hair. Seemingly her portrait by local artist J.D. Kenworthy hung in our Post Office well beyond the 1920s. It is known that Kenworthy did commonly paint village children; if Annie Walker really was his model for this picture, it would be good to know what has happened to it since. I wonder whether anyone might know?

Bob Jopling

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Fair trade Fortnight: 27th Feb- 12th March

It is with mixed emotion that I approach this year's Fair Trade Fortnight. Traidcraft, the pioneer fair trade company has gone into administration. It is a reminder that the survival many of our staple foods hang in the balance, such as bananas, coffee and cocoa. We absolutely need to protect our planet in order to protect our food supply. Fair trade is no longer just about being fair to producers, especially those in low income countries. When you choose Fairtrade, you support farmers to take care of the environment through Fairtrade's Fair Price and Premium.

You can find out lots of interesting facts about Fair Trade at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/>

You can buy Fair trade in your local shops, from the Egremont Farmers' Market or directly from me, Deb. There will be a special Fair trade event at the market on Friday 3rd March. Monies raised will go towards Transform Trade, a charity aiming to put people before profit. <https://www.transform-trade.org/>

If you want to help serve drinks or bake cakes please contact Deb 01946 823470 lee535877@ao.com or Carole Woodman, Springfield Farm, 822375.

Thank you for making a difference and supporting Fair Trade.

Friday Fun

Did you want to be part of Friday Fun?

7 youngsters enjoyed the new Friday Fun at the Priory. They made their own bread which was eaten at the end of the session. Amazing eagles that could balance on your finger were also created. Everyone learned why we celebrate communion with bread and wine and had a good sing.

Friday Fun is open to all children aged 5-11 yrs. It takes place on the last Friday of the month and starts at 4.30pm, finishing at 6pm. See you there on 31st March!



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News from the Village School

Changing Lives Learning Trust

I am delighted to be able to inform you that our application to join Changing Lives Learning Trust has been approved by the DfE's Regional Director.

We are very excited to be embarking on this next step in our journey to provide the best possible education for our children. Working collaboratively with the other schools in the Trust will help to ensure we continue to flourish and be at the forefront of best educational practice.

We are hoping that the conversion date will be the 1st September 2023 and we will of course keep you informed going forward.

Farm Visits

Many thanks to Watson Hill Farm for having our Year 2 children to visit – they absolutely loved the experience. Our Reception and Year 5 children will also be visiting Strudda Bank Farm near Seascale this month.

VSA

The Village School Association (VSA) is back up and running! Their aim is to organise social events, raise funds to enhance school's resources and have fun along the way. They have a couple of events in the pipeline already: the team will be helping out in school during Science Week and they will be holding an EASTER FAIR on Saturday, 8th April 1pm to 3.30pm in school, with fun activities for the children. If anyone is able to donate raffle or tombola prizes it would be greatly appreciated. (If you are interested in joining the VSA please contact via the school office 01946 822392)

Easter

Alongside our Easter celebrations within school and the VSA event, the children will be visiting the Priory for an Easter service on Thursday 30th March. Also, some of our children have been invited by the Church to take part in an "Experience Easter" Event which has been created by a company called Jumping Fish and ran by schools and churches across the country to support the Collective worship and RE curriculum in schools. The children will engage and reflect on the Easter story and will visit St Leonards Church for the event.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs E Sharp, Headteacher

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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/>

WI News

Our February Guest Speaker was Marion Clarke from Gosforth. Marion gave us a wonderful talk about her early life growing up on a Hill Farm, and being a life-long member and advocate of the WI. Marion gave us an honest heart-warming talk about her life which everyone who attended really enjoyed: there were highs and lows, fun, laughter and sadness, a great recollection of a very interesting life. Thank you to Marion for coming to St Bees on a winter's night to share your life story with our group of ladies. This was followed by refreshments and raffle.

Our March Meeting is on Monday 13th 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel. The WI will be having our Annual General Meeting. The President, Secretary and Treasurer will tell all our members about our WI year of 2022 and what we have in store for 2023. We are open to questions and suggestions, so don't be shy; please ask anything you like, all our paperwork from 2022 will be available for members to read and view. If anyone wants to join the Committee or our WI Group please come forward - you will be most welcome.

The AGM will be followed by a General Quiz, this will be hosted by the one and only Jon Mellor, who is an excellent Quiz Master, so if you fancy making up a team do come along and join us, visitors and non-members most welcome. Cost £4 including refreshments. Further information from www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI or contact Roxanne on 823137.

Seagalls

Seagalls first meet up of the year saw nineteen of us entertained by Helen Shipton Smith of Helens Herbs.

Helen did a cooking demonstration featuring smoked salmon and cream cheese tagliatelle, chicken and fried rice and chocolate and beetroot cake. All of which we got a small portion of to taste and recipes to take home.

She has recently been doing cooking demos funded by Cumbria community foundation. These are aimed at combating loneliness, mental health issues etc. And have been very successful. Helen also holds classes for wreath making and sells her plants etc. At the local Farmers Market.

We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Many thanks to the welcoming staff at the Seacote, they were very organised.

If anyone would like to join us Maggie is doing an Easter craft evening on Tuesday 7th March, 7pm at The Seacote. Please just turn up or contact details in the back of the magazine. We have a great calendar planned for this year.

Grassroots

Lent Lunches in March

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

Saturday 4 March Hosts: Joan Wadey, Joan Edgar & team

Saturday 11 March Hosts: Gill Burgess, Bakers & Bushbys

Saturday 18 March Hosts: Sally Kennedy, Gay Bettinson, Sunniva Park & team

Saturday 25 March Hosts: Wendy Mellor, McGees & team

Saturday 1st April Hosts: combined Pop-In servers team

Do join us in a good cause or two and bring a friend. Donations this year will go to NSPCC (St Bees branch) and to the DEC Christian Aid Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Friends of the Priory present by popular request the Family Movie - Disney's Frozen 2 - in the Priory on Saturday 4 March - 5 to 7.00 pm. Free snacks & drinks. Entrance free but suggested donation for Adult £5; Child £3. Children should be accompanied by an adult. All Welcome!

Friends Presentation by Dr Claire Summers on 'Teaching Resuscitation in Tanzania' will be held on Friday 17 March at 7.30 pm in NCH. Our local health trust has a link with a hospital in Mbeya in the south of Tanzania, and Claire's teaching visit was funded by the Priory's Christmas giving for an overseas charity, in 2019 before the pandemic. All are welcome to attend her illustrated talk, with its vibrant tropical colours and scenery, a real winter warmer!

Leonie Hill would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and messages during and after her recent stay in hospital. Thanks to the wonders of modern medicine and the skill and expertise of our NHS staff she was quickly patched up and able to go home in time to spend Christmas with her family. Deo Gratias. (*Apologies for omitting this last month - Ed.*)

Eileen Todd writes: St. Bees Little Champions / St. Bees V.I.B: As a volunteer in both the above groups can I please ask all you lovely dog owners / walkers to pick up your dogs' poo, not just on the pavements but on the flower beds around Stone House Gardens, entrance to Station Car Park and the gardens on the foot bridge over Pow Beck. Spare a thought for us older ladies who tend these areas, keeping them tidy and weed free.

Copeland Labour Party will be holding a ceilidh and hotpot supper in the Seacote Hotel on Saturday 29th April, with a live band and caller. Tickets £15 per person, family of 4 £40, table for 10 £140. Tickets available now from Margaret Lamb on 07867 667452 or via margaritamary22@gmail.com.

Grassroots

Volunteers wanted for Priory Team of “Holy” Mowers! - The team of volunteers who keep the Priory grounds and graveyard grass cut and tidy are in need of additional volunteers. The team meet weekly on Tuesday mornings from April through to October to trim and mow the churchyard and the areas to the south of the church.

If you feel you could offer an hour or two weekly to help with this work, contact the team leader Malcolm Lightfoot – email mjlightfoot918@btinternet.com or phone 01946 824273.

Volunteers also sought for manning the public address system and video at Services. Don't be put off by the mass of knobs on the desk - job only requires plugging in microphones before the service and adjusting volume sliders as needed. And the live streaming video, once setup pre-service can be left to look after itself. Contact Ian on 822326 or email him - imcandrew@stbees.org.uk if interested.

Over 60s Club - Welcome to a new year for over 60's I hope you are all keeping safe and well and looking forward to spring and warmer weather: I know I am. Our first meeting will be in Hodgetts Club on March 7th at 2pm: we look forward to seeing you all again.

Toddler Group meets every Wednesday from 9.30 to 11.00 am in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Includes toys to play with, arts and crafts, and singing. £3 a family which includes all refreshments. New families most welcome. Contact 'Katy Privilege' <KatyPrivilege_89@outlook.com> or call 07429226552 .

Lunga's take on the weather

Hello. Lunga here. So now we are two. Mammy says that is fourteen in 'doggie' years. That sounds a big number, and I can only count to five, so I'll stick with being two for now. How have you got on in the skating weather? Mammy asks me to be very careful and gentle when it is white on the ground. Sometimes it is just right for skating - doesn't look any different - but I slide and mammy avoids it. Then there was the rain. I don't like it when it goes in my eyes. I shake it off as best I can. At Christmas Santa bought me a robe that mammy puts on me when I'm wet. It's cosy and seems to dry me. How thoughtful of Santa. When it has been sunny, I like to lie on the road - it's warm, but mammy doesn't like me doing that as she says a car might run me over - it hasn't yet! Then there is the wind. That can be a challenge - it blows my ears and my tail and can be chilly when I had my haircut. Be careful in the wind and remember:

*Two fine dogs went out for a walk, and it was windy weather,
And so they didn't get blown away they tied their tails together.
They tied their tails with a yard of tape and the wind it blew and blew,
As keen and sharp as a carving knife it cut the tape in two.
Away, away like kites in the air those two little dogs blew about,
And one little dog was blown to bits and the other blew inside out!*

So, take care in the wind. Bye for now. Lunga (Claire Summers, Lunga's mammy.)

St Bees School News

Sporting success

Spring term at St Bees School has gotten off to a great start to say the least, especially where our sporting endeavours are concerned. From football triumphs to bench ball victories, Eton Fives to working with the village school – it's been an epic term so far!

The senior five-a-side football team are on a winning streak following two formidable clashes against The Whitehaven Academy and West Lakes Academy. After getting beaten badly in a similar fixture only a year ago, the St Bees Senior Team were out in full force and produced a sublime performance against rivals Whitehaven Academy. There were goals galore in a see-saw match which saw St Bees emerge victorious 5-4.

The following week, the senior boy's football team went up against West Lakes Academy. The boys were full of confidence after their previous win, and it showed on the pitch. In what can only be described as a sporting fairy tale, St Bees emerged victorious 1-0.

Moving onto cross country, Year 8 students, Amisha and Denys, did a fantastic job at representing the school as they headed to the Cumbria Cross Country Competition at Sedbergh. They successfully qualified following the recent Copeland School Cross Country event where Denys finished 1st and Amisha 7th in their respective races. Both Denys and Amisha did incredibly well against stiff competition – especially as they were younger than most of their fellow racers.

From football and bench ball to Eton Fives, the St Bees School Eton Fives team competed in their first tournament since reopening in 2018 this term! A group made up of four students and two members of staff made the journey down to Shrewsbury to compete in The 2023 Northern Tournament, organised by the Eton Fives Association.

Eton Fives is a handball game that was brought to life in the late 19th century at Eton College. The aim of the game is to stop your opponent from hitting the ball off the front wall. It is thought that St Bees School is home to the most northerly Eton Fives court in the world.

The team made it to the Semi-Final of one of the tournaments before being knocked out, nevertheless, the team plan on returning to the tournament next year.

As well as our own sporting victories, this term our Sixth Formers were given a taste of what it is like to be the teacher as Year 6 students visited from St Bees Village School Years 12 and 13 took on the challenge to plan, create and deliver lessons to a group of Year 6s from the local village school. The lessons included different sports such as: volleyball, hockey, and badminton, much to the delight of the primary school teachers.

The lesson was such a success that the Sixth Formers are hoping to get more involved with the village school students and their PE lessons next year, as well as involving them in International Languages Day which will be celebrated in the school.



You may have read recently in the press about the Church of England and same-sex marriage. For what it's worth I personally support equal marriage.

I feel incredibly sorry for all those who want to get in married in church but are barred from doing so because of their sexuality. It seems very unjust. The church is divided on this issue but it is my prayer that we care deeply for one another whilst we speak boldly.

I want to resist the temptation to be part of a "blame game" or go into battle with those who hold opposing views. At the same time, I want all those who are deeply hurt, especially those who are LGBTQI+ to know that I will advocate for them as best I can.

Archbishop Welby said on Wednesday: "I am under no illusions that what we are proposing today will appear to go too far for some and not nearly far enough for others, but it is my hope that what we have agreed will be received in a spirit of generosity, seeking the common good."

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

Amen to that. Reverend Becky

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

God who delights in us,

You search us and find us out.

You love us from the inside.

Every thought and feeling, uttered and held in silence

Is known to you and precious to you.

Dwell within us. Help us discover that you mean us to

Grow into who we fully are and no other.

To be real, not to pretend

To know love – given and received, And to blossom in its liberating power.

Shelter us in your protective shadow from those who will not accept us,

Who know us only from the outside.

Give us the peace that passes

All misunderstanding, fear and rejection

Knowing that you alone behold us,

Desire us, and declare us to be your own. Amen.



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

Follow Daily

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

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

Care Deeply

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.

Speak Boldly

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.

Tread Gently

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

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

Activities
for Lent

WORD SEARCH

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

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

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

FOLLOW the PATH

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