

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

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

The Rev'd David Cox

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee - 07841 398088

Sunday Services

10.30 a.m. every Sunday

On livestream only

Live Streamed via YouTube

See www.stbeespriory.org.uk for details

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

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

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

Hire of Priory & Halls

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

Booking Officers

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

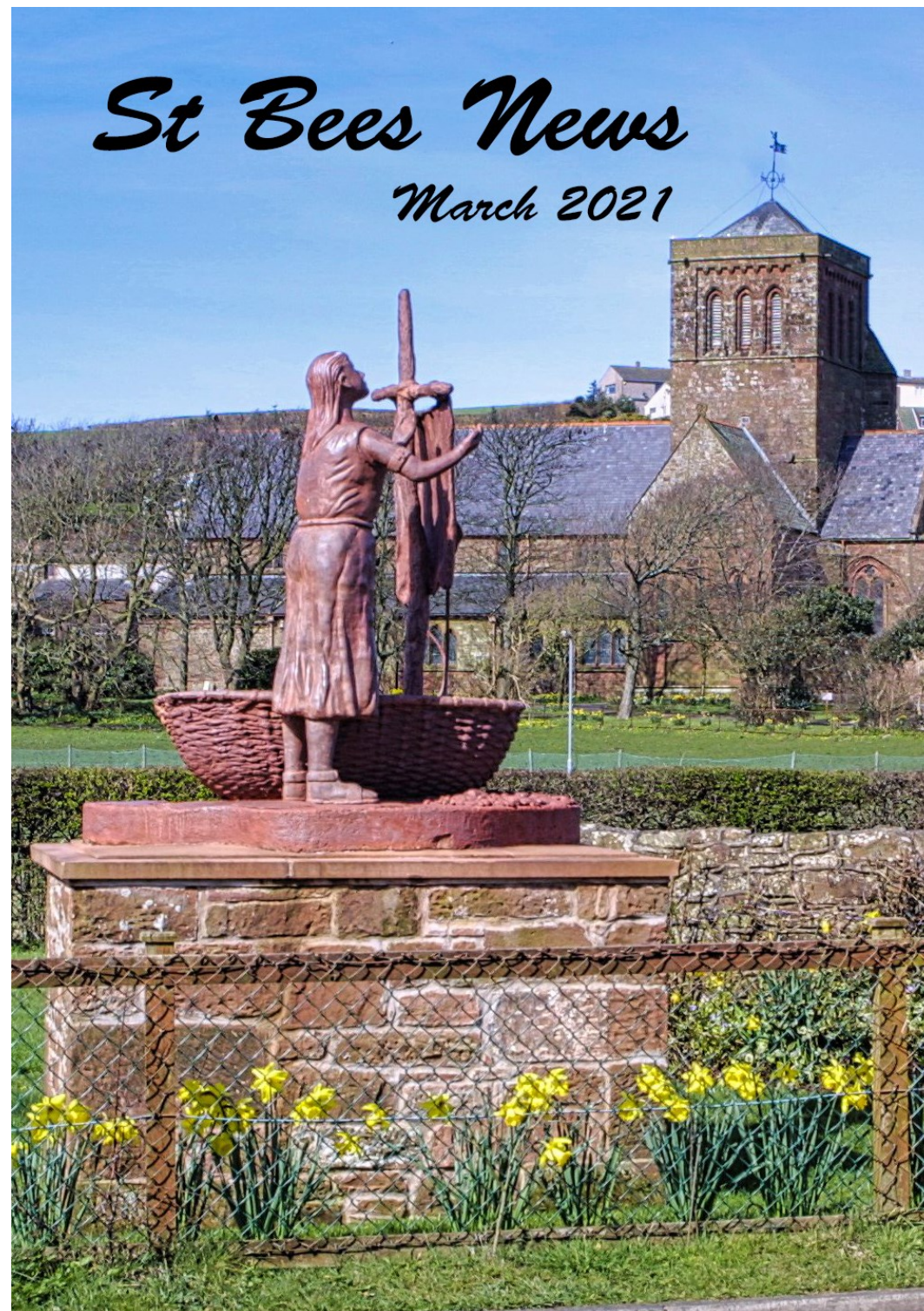
Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

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

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

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



St Bees Parish A B C

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

Guides	meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email stbeesguides@yahoo.com
History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, e.mail pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections for 20 members are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - Jon Mellor, jonmell@hotmail.co.uk
Playgroup (Toddler Group)	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from Amy Linton - Email - amylinton1983@gmail.com
Pop-in Cafe	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
Pre-School	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
Prayer Group	meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.
Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307. <i>Not meeting at present.</i>
Priory Web Site	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk
Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Lynne Smith - Tel. 822285 - or Judith 07772523742
St Bees Triers	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email running@triers.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
St Bees Youth Group	meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7.00 p.m. in New College Hall. All youngsters of secondary school age are welcome. Contact organisers on 07518 394297.
Village School Association	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Village in Bloom	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St.Bees. (Tel 822522).
Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in New College Hall (see program). Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

Calendar for March 2021

5	Friday		Fairtrade Virtual event, Deb lee
7	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (On-line)
9	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	PCC Meeting (Zoom)
10	Wednesday	7.00 p.m.	Village Hall Management Committee (Zoom)
14	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (On-line)
15	Monday	6.30 p.m.	Parish Council (Webex)
21	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (On-line)
28	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion - Palm Sunday (On-line)

Sunday Evening Prayer services at 6.00 p.m. on Zoom (See Priory News)

Easter Services - To be arranged

End of March - Mini-story Challenge—Entries to imcandrew@stbees.org.uk

Holy Habits Lent Course - Mondays March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (Zoom)
See link on Priory web site
7.00 - 8.00 p.m. on Zoom

Editor - April 2021 Magazine

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

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

St Bees News

March 2021

My life is very dull. In the last six weeks I have left the village to;

Conduct funerals - Go to the supermarket - Get the dog neutered
(Just to clarify, I didn't get the dog neutered at the supermarket)

Usually, I rely on humorous anecdotes to entertain you in these letters. I do know a funny story about a trip to the supermarket but it does have quite a lot of swearing in it so is best not repeated here. Benji the dog does look vaguely amusing in his post-op plastic collar or the "cone of shame", as my family call it, but it seems a little cruel to make a joke about that right now. And although funerals can have their light-hearted moments these aren't my stories to tell.

So what to talk about?

I am writing this letter on the day Boris Johnson is to announce his "roadmap" out of lockdown. Pretty ironic choice of phrase when none of us can travel anywhere except for essential trips (see points 1-3 above) But I suppose if the government is looking ahead and sharing their plans then maybe I can do that too? I will, of course, attempt this with the same level of hesitance and caution that I expect from our prime minister.

Reverend Nicki Pennington and I have become increasingly dependent on technology these past twelve months and this Lent will see us use these to the max. (As long as the WiFi works and our computers cope with the data) Each week one of us will be "Baking through Lent" and posting the creative process on Facebook with an accompanying reflection. Later in the month, every day we will be sharing ideas for a "Crafty Lent" and again sharing artistic and imaginative creations on social media.

If you prefer a more traditional Lent, worship will be streamed live from the Priory every Sunday just before 10.30am and there will be other online services and gatherings during Holy Week. (See calendar for more details)

We are also running a Lent course on Zoom every Monday at 7pm. This will be the second "Holy Habits" course and will be about prayer. Each week stands alone so there is no need to attend them all. Everyone can pray, there's no prior skills or knowledge needed, and everyone is welcome to join the course. The course describes prayer as "a foundational and transformative Holy Habit, a way of being, the breath of life". I like this description. On difficult days, I am so grateful that a simple breath in, or out, can be a prayer.

There may well be more difficult days ahead, as we've seen these last twelve months having a "roadmap" doesn't necessarily mean the road ahead will be smooth. I am very aware that when so many are suffering huge losses, my "dull" day is someone else's dream day. And so we listen to each other's stories and share each other's burdens. Sometimes we say a prayer. Sometimes we just breathe.

With love and prayers for a blessed Lent, *Becky*

Priory News March

Priory Worship - The Priory will remain closed for public worship and private prayer, to keep everyone safe, until the matter will be reconsidered at the next PCC meeting on 9th March, when we will also consider plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter (Sunday 28 March to Sunday 4 April). Meantime Priory services will be live-streamed by the vicar on youtube or facebook at 10.30 am every Sunday, with readings and intercessions recorded by church members.

Every Sunday – 10.30 am Holy Communion livestreamed
6.00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom (see Priory news on church website)

2nd Sunday (14 March) – All-Age Service on Zoom (ask Rev Becky for an invite)

Funeral Services will be held at the graveside or at the Crematorium, until the PCC meets to reconsider at their March meeting. It is vital for everyone's safety to comply with Diocesan and Government regulations- only 30 mourners may attend a funeral and only those registered with the funeral directors. No others can attend the ceremony, or stand outside the Crematorium.

Organ Recital online – You can find 'Informal Tunes for All' on the Priory website brought to you on the wonderful Father Willis organ by our gifted organist Frank Bowler, with thanks to Rev Richard Lee for recording this. Go to stbeespriory.co.uk

Holy Habits Lent Course focussing on Prayer – During Lent the group will be meeting on Zoom, on Monday evenings at 7.00 pm for an hour. Themes are as follows:- 1st March: the Solomon Process; 8th March: Raw and Raging; 15th March: Praying when we get it wrong; 22nd March: Houses of Prayer; and 29th March: Change the World. We spend time reading a Bible passage and discussing, sharing and learning together with the Mission Community – Rev Becky Gibbs and Rev Nicki Pennington will share leading the sessions. The programme can be accessed online, on the Priory services website.

Mothering Sunday - Unfortunately due to Covid precautions, there will be no live Mothering Sunday service and no posies, but there will be a live-stream service on 14 March. The wonderful team of ladies who normally meet to create all the posies for the children to give to their mothers, will not be able to do so this year. Mothering Sunday cards may be available from the Cornerstone Christian Bookshop.

Elizabeth Cotes

This to let you know that Elizabeth has moved to her daughter Katy's home in Cockermouth. Her move to the Care Home her has been deferred for 5-6 weeks,

This has not been an easy decision but we think it is best for Mum's physical and mental well being. This is the address of the care home:

Sarah Dakin, Elizabeth Cotes' daughter

St Bees WI News

I hope you are all staying safe and well. The vaccine roll-out is going well and should likely reach the first nine groups by May, which include everyone over 50 and the vulnerable. No news yet on the easing of lock-down restrictions, but hopefully this will come soon. Following Government Guidelines, we will cautiously start to plan a return to WI meetings at NCH. Although very cold at the moment, Spring is on the way, the nights are opening out nicely, and spring flowers are starting to emerge. St Bees is a lovely place to see the changes of the Seasons any time of year, but spring is special, a time of new beginnings, and a fresh start. Feelings of optimism are evident as we move forward into the new year, and I am hopeful that it will be much better than the year that has just gone. Further details on local WI matters: www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI or contact Roxanne Benson on 823137.

100 Word Story

The editors of St Bees News invite readers of any age to contribute a MINISTORY. This is a challenge to write a story, preferably with a beginning, a middle and an end in less than a hundred words. The title is not included in that number. Stories may be on any subject but it is suggested that any reference to "waking from a dream" at the end is best avoided.

It may be possible to publish a selection of entries in the future. In the present, entries should be sent to Ian McAndrew as Editor of St Bees News before the end of March. This is a challenge as lockdown seems to be about to be eased. We are carefully avoiding giving any prizes!

Last Word 5

Have you ever gone upstairs and wondered at the top why you are there? (you then have to go down to remember why you went up).

Have you ever lost the car keys and having found them (after frantic searching) remember with startling clarity putting them in a special place in the first place?

The good news is that you are not losing the plot. Apparently researchers in the University of Edinburgh

looking into the "why have I gone into this room" problem and the others mentioned, have concluded that

these difficulties are normal for people of any age. At times, particularly going through doorways, somehow a

mental delete button can be pressed resulting in the question "Am I going mad?"

The answer is NO. [There is nothing to worry about which is good news, so you can go back to look for the car keys.

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Holy Mowers

The Grass Cutting team, aka the Holy Mowers, will be depleted this year by the absence of Charles Yule, and reductions due to shift pattern changes and restrictions affecting availability of others in the group.

This opens up the opportunity for those wishing to join this sociable group that meet weekly to mow the Priory grounds usually on Tuesdays, but you can pick your own time to some extent. Mow or trim as much or as little as you wish. "Covid Safe" practices will apply at all times in accordance with whatever guidance is in place when mowing starts in spring.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Malcolm Lightfoot on 07500 466485 or 01946 824273.

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Parish Council News

Footpaths

A team of volunteers and parish councillors has been carrying out a survey of public footpaths in the parish, identifying where work is required and replacing missing way markers. The group will be working with Cumbria County Council to decide what work can be carried out by CCC and what could be done by volunteers.

West Cumbria Mining

There has been a further delay to the plans for a new mine after South Lakes Action on Climate Change challenged the legality of aspects of CCC's approval of the planning application. The County Council will now reconsider the application. The Parish Council continues to support the proposed mine as it will be a boost to the local economy and domestic production of coking coal (essential for steel production) will be less harmful to the climate than importing coal from countries across the world.

Census 2021

The next census by the Office of National Statistics is due to take place in March and this will be the first to take place electronically. There will be help available for those who do not have the skills/equipment to complete the forms online. We will post information on the noticeboards when available.

Beach Clean Station

The Parish Council has purchased a '2 Minute Beach Clean Station' for the main beach. The new board will be installed shortly on the side wall of the toilets and will have litter pickers and reusable bags so anyone walking on the beach can do a '2 minute clean' as they walk and deposit any litter collected in one of the bins around the beach area. The litter pickers and bags can then be replaced on the board when you leave. It is important that guidance on hand washing is followed to prevent the spread of coronavirus so hand sanitiser is provided on the board and the toilets have handwashing facilities.

Survey by Cumbria Highways

Highways are carrying out an online survey as part of plans to improve its service to the public. The survey can be found at <https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/cumbria-county-council/highways-feedback-survey>

Meetings

The Parish Council will be continuing to hold its monthly meetings remotely via Cisco Webex in March and April. The legislation which allows remote meetings comes to an end early in May. At this stage the government has not proposed an extension so the situation for the May meeting remains uncertain. Members of the public are still welcome to join our virtual meetings - the details of how to join are published on the agenda (available on the web-site and noticeboards). The next meeting will be Monday 15 March at 6.30pm.

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Councillor Jeffrey Hailes

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Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk

County Councillor

Councillor Chris Whiteside

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

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From the Priory Registers

Christian Funeral at the Crematorium

16 February John Russell Atkinson (Russell) Tir-na-nog, Seamill Lane,
formerly of Demesne Farm

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mark Foster formerly of Howman, St Bees and latterly of Great Salkeld, who died suddenly at Newcastle RVI on 26 January aged 64 years. His funeral service and the celebration of his life was held at Carlisle Crematorium. Many villagers will remember Mark and his family with much affection, as the Fosters managed St Bees Post Office & Shop for many years, and then Mark worked with Tom Milburn in the Caravan & Chalet Park office. Our thoughts and prayers are with his dearly loved wife Judith, and their daughters Catherine and Laura, and their families who were baptised at the Priory in recent years. If desired, donations in memory of Mark for Diabetes UK may be sent c/o Walkers Funeral Directors, Tynefield House, Penrith. CA11 8HY.

In Memoriam – Sadly we hear of the recent death of Edith Brennan (sister of Mary Todd) at the Gables Care Home at Hensingham in February - formerly a farmer/shepherdess of Croft House Farm, Middletown – she continued farming into her 80s until failing health forced her retirement. She moved to Castlemount in Egremont, and after its closure to the Gables. Rest in Peace, Edith.

Egbert (Bert) Heuker

It is with sadness that I announce the death of Bert who died 2 February 2021 at West Cumberland Hospital, after 13 months of battling cancer. Bert was born in The Netherlands and immigrated to the USA in 1968. He lived in Marina del Rey, California, until he moved to South Gate to start his employment. He later met his American wife, Vivian. After they were married they moved to Ridgecrest, CA where Bert started his employment with the local police department. Upon his retirement in 2000, he and Vivian moved to St Bees, where they have lived at 6 Abbotts Way for the last twenty years. I wish to thank our neighbours, especially Sally and John Kennedy, Gweneth and Neville Denson and Sue Young of Mopits Housekeeping for their support and counsel during Bert's illness. Bert will be remembered for his warm smile and his friendliness that he showed to everyone he met. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by Vivian Heuker, 01946 821 187

Dorothy Hodgson

The Hodgson / McDowell family wish to announce the peaceful passing of Dorothy Hodgson (formerly of Solway Rise) at Highfield House on 13th February 2021. Dorothy, aged 83, loved living in the village with her husband Eric and family close by.

Mark Foster

A sincere thank you from Judith, Laura, Catherine and families for the many cards and letters received following the sudden death of Mark on 26th January 2021. We all have fond memories of St Bees and are truly grateful for the many kind words and thoughts from our friends in St Bees.

Many thanks., Judith Foster, 4 Fold Gardens, Great Salkeld

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News from the Village School

Plans to reopen school at the beginning of term presented us with various difficulties due to the PM's very sudden announcement that we were entering another lockdown and we were compelled to move to remote learning immediately for all pupils. However, we were able to reopen to key worker and vulnerable children and this situation will remain until we are advised otherwise.

We would like to express our thanks to teachers, support staff and governors for all their hard work thus far this term. They have all made tremendous efforts to ensure children have received high quality learning, whether that be for those children who are learning remotely at home or are still being taught within school.

We understand that home learning for parents can be such a challenge and we would like to thank those parents for their continued support and understanding.

We look forward to better times ahead when we can welcome all children back into the school environment full time.

Help!!

Are you suffering from lockdown "cabin fever"? Sick of walking the same route for your exercise every reasonably dry day? Priory Paddock needs you! Spend some of your exercise helping our own village Conservation site!

As with everything else over the last year, Priory Paddock has suffered disruption to its planned maintenance, and there are now a number of tasks which require urgent attention. These include simple weeding to remove grass from the border along the drive wall, and pruning to cut back the rampant shrubbery at the top of the site. No particular expertise would be required, though always welcome if available, and these are tasks where even an hour every now and again would help to make a difference.

If you think you might be able to help, please ring Neil Bettinson on 01946 823997, who will be able to give more information. Thank you!

St Bees School News

Congratulations to St Bees School on receiving Runner-Up for the Greater China Education Award 2021. They are proud to be recognised - thanks to students, staff and supporters.

Congratulations to the winners - the Royal Northern College of Music.

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

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 February to 7 March 2021

At the time of writing the article for the February magazine we still thought we could hold a Special Fair Trade Farmers' Market at Egremont but lockdown 2 hit. However, the producers still need your support. We are hoping to hold a virtual event (probably the same day: Friday 5th March). You will be able to hear the producers' stories, what a difference your support makes and view the Spring Catalogue. All Chocolate will be half price to those who express an interest.

You have the power to drive long term change with your shopping choices. Play your part in making the world better and join the 28% of folk who plan to start buying fair trade in 2021. If you want to support the virtual event, purchase some fair trade items or get a free catalogue, contact Deb 823470, lee535877@aol.com

Fair Trade Easter Eggs!

Why not buy a Fair Trade Easter egg this year? There is something for every taste: Dark, Milk, White chocolate. Orange, Hazelnut, Raspberry, large small or mini!

Perhaps you might like to buy an egg for the food bank? We provided over 60 advent calendars: can we do the same for Easter?

For a full list of what is available or a catalogue contact Deb Lee 01946 823470, lee535877@aol.com

St Bees Parish Council Footpath Group.

St Bees has around 25 public footpaths within the parish boundary. Many of these are ancient rights of way and were used by people going to work. eg. 'Pitman's Trod'. Although our public rights of way are the responsibility of Cumbria County Council, Parish Councils and groups such as the Ramblers, often try to help with the maintenance of paths by clearing the undergrowth and replacing worn out waymarkers. Any problems with fencing or access to paths get reported to the County Council.

Recently in St Bees, the Parish Council Footpath Group and helpers have been carrying out a survey of all the paths in the Parish, replacing way markers and making a list of defects to send to the County Council. Shortly we will be starting to clear some of the paths that have become blocked with undergrowth and we will need some volunteer helpers. If anyone is willing and able then please let me know.

A collection of 7 local circular walks, can be found in the 'visitors' section of the Parish Council Web Site (www.stbees.org.uk) They are also available in print from the Post Office.

When walking on public footpaths remember to keep dogs on leads. If your dog worries sheep, you could be sued by the farmer. The farmers are also legally allowed to shoot a dog that is threatening their animals.

Remember the Country Code (www.gov.uk)

Claire Hale

Sundays Past

Sometimes when I dig around in village history I think how much change can take place over one lifetime. These notes from some thirty years ago may show what I mean. Some of our senior villagers were talking about churchgoing in their childhood, and thanks to Jackie Walker and Pat Hindson we have a record of what they said:

Florrie Smith

"All the farmers used to go to Church. They were really good and they all had their own seats, which they paid for. There was the Kingsworths' seat, and the Scoulars, who lived at Fleatham House. They had five or six little boys, and when the children went to Church they always dressed in kilts. They did look smart".

Mabel Rothery

: "Sunday used to be a lovely day – no one worked, but went to church or Sunday School instead. To hear the bells ringing over the meadows was something to remember. As soon as they started, all the rooks flew out of the rookery, making a great noise. They did not return till the service was over".

Sarah Rothery

"I remember the day our family arrived at the Priory in clogs. Because of the clogs we were turned away. We attended the Methodist Chapel after that, as many others did in those days".

Mary Richardson

I went to Sandwith Sunday School, and to Church here at night. There was nothing else. There were no pictures or TV. The children didn't get into so much trouble as they do now. They just used to get a clip round the ear!

Every Palm Sunday the scholars attended the Church to say their Catechism, and each got a bun and an orange. You may be sure we each of us learned our Catechism".

Fred Chinner

"When I was a Scout I was Patrol Leader of the Wood Pigeon Patrol. We all went to Church the first Sunday of each month. We had to be extra smart for it. Painter Dixon was Captain of the Bells, he used to ring Number 8. Willy McNeal was verger, he always wore a hard hat. His son Johnny had pigs down at the Priory. Where the graves are now, that was all his land, and he used to grow lilies there and sell them for sixpence each".

I don't have permission to name the young lady from Rottington whose father had forbidden her make up. Later she was a much respected (and I believe much-loved) member of the community. In her young days it was her Sunday custom to walk the unpaved track from Rottington to the Priory, hiding her walking shoes in the hedge after Scalebarrow, and putting on court shoes in their place. Then when the coast was clear she would wedge her mirror in a fencepost and surreptitiously apply her make up. Of course she would have to take it off again before returning home.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

NB. At least we still have the rooks!

Letter from Michelle Proctor - Mukinge Hospital Nurse

The start of a new year is a natural time to look back at the old year and forward to the new. 2020 was not the easiest of years the world over but as I look back over the year there was a lot to be thankful for and some great highlights.

One of my highlights happened towards the end of the year and is a relatively small event on the grand scale of things, yet it made me so happy. It involves socks – yes socks! The children with malnutrition frequently have swollen feet that get cold despite the warm weather. Often, they do not have socks or their socks are too small due to the swelling and so it was I found myself planning to buy socks next time I was in town so we would have a supply. That evening I opened a parcel that had been posted a year earlier and found that amongst other things there was lots of children's socks! A year may seem like a long time for a parcel to arrive but for me it was perfect timing!

It is hard to have a conversation or write a letter without talking about COVID-19. Zambia has had relatively few cases compared to other countries but the numbers are steadily rising. We have started to see more cases here at Mukinge and our isolation centre has had a few admissions in the past couple of weeks. Thankfully the vast majority of cases are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms and can self-isolate at home. Several of our staff and students have tested positive which combined with staffing the isolation ward has required some creative timetabling and extra duties for some. Everyone is asked to wear masks when out and about and hand washing and social distancing are strongly encouraged. In the hospital we are not allowing visitors and some non-essential services have again been halted. We continue to screen for COVID and now have rapid tests for staff and symptomatic patients. This gives us results in 15 minutes which is a great help as otherwise it can take days to get the results as the swabs are sent to a special lab to be tested. I have had a couple of routine screening tests both of which came back negative.

For the next few months, I will be doing full time anaesthesia as my colleague is away on leave. I will miss being on the children's ward and working with the team there. Anaesthesia brings its own joys and challenges. I enjoy working with the theatre staff and using a different set of skills but I do not enjoy the middle of the night emergencies!

We are now well in to our rainy season when it rains most days and we get frequent thunder storms. The photo above shows my view of a storm rolling in as I left theatre and dashed home to avoid the coming rain.



The rains change our surroundings in to a green paradise with flowering trees and bushes. Seasonal birds and many insects appear with the rains. I enjoy seeing the birds in my garden and have a list of all those I have seen, 42 different ones so far!

The transformation of the land from brown to green never fails to amaze me. I feel blessed to live where I am surrounded by God's creation and can enjoy its beauty.

"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."

Psalm 104 verse 24

I hope this letter finds you well and that in these difficult times you too find joy in Gods many gifts.

Love Michelle

Grassroots

Rhoda Bryan's Funeral service – Many of us in St Bees parish tuned in to the funeral service for Rhoda, streamed live on facebook from her parish church on 2nd February. It was a very special and poignant service and a comfort to those who could not attend in person. Moving tributes were given by Rev Canon Mark Taylor, by her daughter Rosie Thornton and by a member of their congregation. St Bees Priory Church Council have made a donation of £100 to St Patrick's & St John's United Church in Whitehead in memory of Rhoda.

Egremont Foodbank is open for your donations on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

At the Methodist church on Main Street, Egremont – including during lockdown. At present the foodbank drop-off point at the back of the Priory is not open.

St Bees Village Hall Management Committee wishes to announce that its Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 19.00pm via Zoom. All welcome. If you would like to attend the meeting or are interested in standing for the committee, please let an existing committee member know or email hilaryh51@btinternet.com to be sent a Zoom invitation.

In the meantime, we are delighted to say that although we may be closed, we have been very busy! The toilets are being refurbished during February and will be much improved. We've also been fortunate to win a Community Fund award to instal broadband and wi-fi in the hall, and this should happen by the end of March. We'll be adding a large screen and peripheral equipment too, to make the hall much more flexible for users wishing to run events such as "hybrid" meetings or talks and classes where some of the audience are present and some online. We're also hoping to be able to offer the opportunity for those who do not have the internet at home to use the hall's equipment to speak to their friends or families. More on this later once installation is complete and Government restrictions allow. For all booking information, please contact Val Turpin on 823772 or troton@btinternet.com.