

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:

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 - Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.

.DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305



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.
Aikido club.	Adult martial art classes in St Bees, Mon., Tues. & Thu each week. See www.westcumbriaaikido.com or contact Adrian on 07951 999 192.
Bellringing	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 18 The Crofts. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
Scouts, Beavers & Cubs	1st Beckermeth & St Bees Scout Group meet at Wood Lane, St Bees School. Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Mondays 6.30 - 8.30 pm, Cubs 8 - 10.5yrs Thursday 6.30 - 8pm, Beavers 6 - 8yrs Thursday 5.00- 6.15pm
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. Churchwardens are Deb Lee & Gill Barlow (& 2 Vacancies)
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel –07840 844424
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 Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.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 - Juniors (U-12) - Aaron with the number 07902311306 .
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 07897 535100 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. 07742 440919). Flower Show is held on 3rd Saturday in August.
History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
Judo Club	meets regularly at NCH. Contact sankaikunijudo@gmail.com or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections 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.
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.
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. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
Village School Association	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
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. See www.St-Bees-WI-Facebook-pages or contact any member.

Calendar for May 2025

Calendar for May 2025

2	Friday	7.30 pm	'The Colours & Contrasts of Southern India' NCH
4	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Priory
		2.00 – 4.00 pm	Pond Dipping, Priory Paddock
6	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Seagalls, Seacote Hotel
		7.00 pm	St Bees Green Future AGM, NCH
7	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Friends of the Priory AGM, Priory
10	Saturday	2.00 pm	Bring and Share Afternoon Tea Village Hall
11	Sunday	10.30 am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Priory during Morning Worship
12	Monday	7.30 pm	St Bees WI, Seacote Hotel
13	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s – Citizens Advice Talk Village Hall
18	Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion, Priory
		2.00 - -4.00 pm	Plant, Seed & Garden Tool Swap, NCH
19	Monday	6.00 pm	Annual Parish meeting, Village Hall
23	Friday	7.00 pm	Egremont Town Band Concert Priory
25	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship Priory
27	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s - Bingo Village Hall
31	Saturday	Noon	Bees Bash, St Bees School
		7.30pm	The Great Baldini's Magic Cabaret, Village Hall

Calendar for June 2025

3	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Seagalls, Seacote Hotel
7	Saturday	7.00 pm	'Just in Time' Big Band, Village Hall

June Editor

The **June** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Pat McDonnell, Sandyridge, Priory Road, St Bees** who would appreciate contributions not later than **Thursday 8 May** please.

Email : sandyridge@btinternet.com Tel: 01946 822516

St Bees News

May 2025

When I was a child my mum would organise brilliant birthday parties for me and my sister. She liked to plan them around a theme and then set to work creating elaborate invites, decorations, food, entertainment and party bags. Mostly these parties were a great success and our friends were impressed. However, one “rainbow themed year” she dyed the egg mayonnaise in the sandwiches green. Even the most hungry guests weren’t brave enough to try these!

I imagine that the celebrations we gather for this month in the parish will feature less risky sandwich fillings but will be creative and significant in their own ways. At 10.30am on Sunday 18th May we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Christian Aid with a special Holy Communion service followed by fair-trade drinks and biscuits. On the 8th May the parish will remember 80 years since VE Day; candles will be lit in homes across the Mission Community at 9.30pm and prayers for peace said; scattered geographically, but gathered in spirit.

On 11th May at 10.30am at the Priory Annual Parish Committee Meeting we will give thanks for all the ways God has blessed us in the last twelve months and share our hope and dreams for the years ahead. And on the 31st May we will join with the wider parish at St Bees Bash; giving thanks for the commitment of volunteers that makes this kind of event possible.

This year throughout May the church throughout the world celebrates Eastertide. This season lasts for fifty days from Easter Day until Pentecost. Fifty is a significant number in the Old Testament; God’s people were encouraged to “reset” their lives and communities every fifty years with a “year of Jubilee”. This is one the Bible’s most radical ideas. A complete socio-economic refresh in Israel.

Jesus later claims to enact a jubilee when he announces his ministry. “...The Lord has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Luke chapter 4) Many leaders have aspired to this mission, including Pope Francis. In his frailty, he has called the Catholic church throughout the world in 2025 to action; to respond to God’s call for a reset, a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world.

I will be celebrating a big birthday this May and am looking forward to spending some special time with my nearest and dearest. I don’t mind getting older, you’re only as old as you feel after all, and although I don’t think I’ll ever dare to eat a green mayonnaise sandwich, I am ready for new adventures. Some of you will have heard that Phil, Josh, Benji and I are off to pastures new this year. I’m sad to be leaving St Bees; will miss this wonderful parish and people, but I’m relieved too, to be moving closer to my parents in the Midlands. (See page 14 for details of my new appointment)

I’m not moving on quite yet, and I look forward to catching up with you at Bees Bash, at church or out and about. And just in case you’re wondering...I’ll be 50 this year! J

With love from Reverend Becky

Priory News

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held within the Morning Worship service at 10.30am on Sunday 11 May this year. Elections of officers and church councillors will take place, and reports of church organisations and the financial accounts will be presented.

Rev Becky Gibbs and the church council are keen to encourage new members to join the life, mission and governance of the Priory church.

Secretaries of church organisations are to prepare their annual reports to be displayed on the noticeboards in church. PCC secretary Rebecca Rendell will remind you.

Sincere Thanks to all who contributed to the beautiful Mothering Sunday service on 30 March – to Rev Becky Gibbs and the children creating the Simnel Cake; to the Priory Orchestra with their conductor Ali Birchall; to the Church Choir; and to the flower ladies for the lovely posies for all the mothers and grandmothers in the congregation and many more at home.

Lent Lunches in March/April have raised wonderful funds for the two charities specified - The local branch of NSPCC and the Christian Aid Crisis Appeal for the Middle East.

Grateful thanks to all those involved in the success of the four lunches - our hosts and Pop-In teams; and generous guests. Thank you for your amazing support. The food and friendship were much appreciated and two great causes have benefitted. Well done to the chefs and servers!

What's On at the Priory in May - Friends events

Egremont Town Band Concert for the Friends of the Priory - will be held on Friday 23 May at 7.00pm, fundraising for the Friends and the Band. Refreshments will be served. All are most welcome. Do come along for an entertaining evening of brass band music! In New College hall.

Friends Talk by Anthony Payne on Friday 2 May at 7.30pm – ‘The Colours & Contrasts of Southern India’ is a superb presentation by Anthony on his recent travels. All welcome. Refreshments served.

Pond-Dipping with the Friends in Priory Paddock – Families and everyone are invited to enjoy an afternoon on Sunday 4 May from 2.00 to 4.00pm, investigating the pondlife in the paddock with our local naturalist Neil Bettinson and the Friends wildlife study equipment.

Another Friends Event – the Friends AGM will be held on Wednesday 7 May at 7.00pm in the Priory – please note. Reports and accounts will be presented, followed by Committee meeting.

Parish Council News

Valley Link cycle track- the Parish Council is continuing to work to progress the proposal for an off-road cycle track link between St Bees and Whitehaven. The cost of the scheme will be well beyond the resources of a parish council but we are working with the local MP, various local agencies and companies to get the scheme to a point where it could be implemented quickly if funding becomes available.

Station car park- the Parish Council has arranged for a contractor to fill a number of potholes which have developed in the existing car park over the winter. Plans to create additional car parking spaces in the adjoining field have moved a step closer with negotiations at an advanced stage to secure a 50 year lease on the land from Cumberland Council. Network Rail is also in the process of agreeing a 50 year lease of the existing car park to the PC to allow access to the adjoining land.

Coast to Coast Passport Project – the project has been officially launched and those starting the Coast to Coast Walk can purchase a passport to record their progress along the route. Passports can be bought from B&B owners and businesses in the village where walkers can have their passport stamped. If anyone would like more information about the project, please contact the Clerk.

Seagull proof refuse sacks –Cumberland Council has a supply of bird proof sacks which can be made available to those who do not have waste bins and rely on refuse bags. The sacks will protect the plastic bags from being damaged by birds/animals. The sacks will be available for collection from the Market Hall in Whitehaven from April. Cumberland Council can also supply additional garden waste bins which will be emptied fortnightly at a cost of £40 per bin.

Anti-social behaviour – There have recently been several reports of antisocial behaviour, particularly around the beach area and beach toilets. If anyone sees unacceptable behaviour, please report it to the police so that they have a full picture of what is happening.

Annual Parish Meeting – Each year a parish meeting is held which all electors in the parish are invited to attend. The PC Chairman will present his annual report and explain some of the work being undertaken by the Parish Council. There will also be an opportunity for residents to ask questions or suggest issues which they would like the PC to follow up. This year the meeting will be on Monday 19 May at 6pm in the Village Hall immediately before the PC meeting. Why not come along to hear about the work of the Parish Council and ongoing projects? All residents are welcome!

Next Parish Council meeting- The annual Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 19 May at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

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Christian Aid Week May 11-18th

Did you know that Guatemala was one of the first places where chocolate was made? YUM! This Christian Aid week focuses on the Alta Verapaz area, where the Mayan culture persists, along with Christian faith.

We will meet Aurelia, who still grows cacao and makes chocolate to sell locally. Despite the water resources drying up (a mixture of climate crisis and industrial mono culture farms) Aurelia abounds with hope. She is an inspirational and ambitious leader, working to transform how her community farms with specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, returning to indigenous farming practices and adopting agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. Aurelia is making a difference in her community

We have 7 days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. We can demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so Aurelia can help other farmers push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger:

£6 could pay for the seed trays that kickstart a plant nursery at someone's home.

£10 could pay for the pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.

£20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.

To celebrate 80 years of Christian Aid there will be a big celebration at Haltwhistle on Saturday 12 July at 4.30pm. Folk will be coming from East and West. Some walking, some cycling others using the train or a car. Do come and join the celebration!

A BIG thank you!

As a result of the generosity of Egremont Farmers market and St Bees folk, over 20 eggs were donated to the foodbank and 10 to Calderwood House. Thank you!

Grassroots

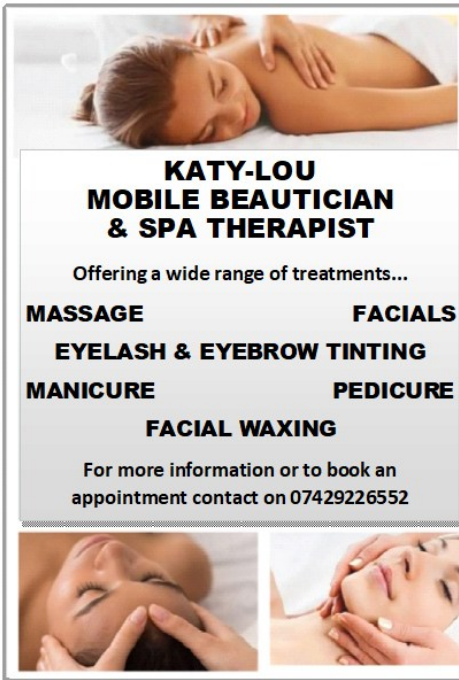
Amnesty West Cumbria Walk for Life – The Coastal Sponsored Walk from Whitehaven to St Bees. All welcome to raise funds for human rights. Meet at the Market Place. To be launched by MP Josh MacAlister. Cake available at the shelter at St Bees Seafront. Please bring your own tea/coffee/soft drinks. Please contact our Amnesty Secretary, Alan Alexander, for details, phone 01946 810444.

Birth announcement - Beauden Sonny-James McGlennon, born 17 February 2025 to besotted parents Aaron and Victoria of Abbey Vale, St Bees.

1st Beckermet & St Bees Scout Group, Charity number: 520611

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development. We have places available (see our meeting times in the front cover of this magazine). If you have a young person who would like to join, please contact Brianscouting@gmail.com

Our Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14) take part in a diverse range of activities, work towards badges and take part in nights away. More information can be found at www.scouts.org.uk



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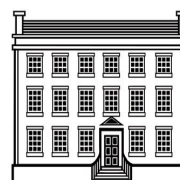


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Village Hall

The management committee, at your village hall, were delighted with the turnout for the ‘Easter Surprise’ flower demonstration. Norma Halpin displayed all her talents to a very large, appreciative audience. Maybe she might come back for Christmas?

Hot on her heels will be the much-awaited VE Day – 80 years on. To be held Saturday 10 May from 2pm with a ‘Bring and Share’ Afternoon Tea. Tickets are priced at £8. Many people may not know this, but Winston Churchill loved listening to Gilbert and Sullivan. Being a ‘word man’ himself, one can understand why he loved to listen to the scintillating lyrics and plots of Gilbert, with sparkling effervescent music to match from Sullivan.

The Hodgett Singers, with Shona Tait playing piano, will entertain you with their ‘Little List’ of G & S songs, together with War Song nostalgia to follow.

The bar will be open as there will be a ‘pub like round the piano’ sing along at the end, with lots of favourite, upbeat songs from the era: ‘Roll Out the Barrel’, ‘Bless ‘Em All’, ‘Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant, Major’, ‘I’m Gonna Get Lit Up’.

As promised, we will also be showing the film, taken in 1995, for the 50th Anniversary of VE Day.

31 May at 7.30pm is an Arts Out West Show – ‘The Great Baldini’s Magic Cabaret’ – and reading reports from other venues where he has performed, it will ensure an unforgettable night of pleasure.

7 June at 7pm we host the big band ‘Just in Time’ with a large collection of saxophones, trumpets and percussion for their foot-tapping repertoire. The Glenn Miller style big band from Ulverston, showcasing top rate players, including Anthea Bremner and Peter Dyer, should be on your list of ‘not to be missed’.

Every ticket bought supports the upkeep of this amazing gift to the village by Mr and Mrs Hodgett in the Victorian era, in deference to them, we have recently named our singers – The Hodgett Singers. They take personal delight in welcoming you, to each event they perform, and look forward, to seeing you there on the 10 May particularly, for a memorable afternoon (a street party indoors!) with a plate of your food to share around.

For tickets and information contact:

Clare Hale – 07740717481 or Val Turpin - 07857008462

St Bees School News

Sporting Excellence at St Bees School

At St Bees School sport continues to grow, and this year our athletes have achieved remarkable success across several disciplines. Our commitment to sporting excellence is evident in the triumphs of our teams, all of whom have demonstrated exceptional skill and determination.

A highlight of the spring term has undoubtedly been the success of our Eton Fives teams. This season our players made an outstanding impact on the national stage, reaching two semi-finals and ultimately securing a victory in the girls plate competition at the national championships held in Shrewsbury. This historic win is a significant milestone for our Eton Fives program and reflects the dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship of our athletes. Their performance has placed St Bees firmly on the map as a strong contender in the world of Eton Fives.

In badminton, our players have also had an incredible year. Competing in the Junior County Championships on 30th March, St Bees athletes faced off against the best junior players in Cumbria. Despite varying levels of experience, our team performed admirably, with Year 10 students Sanna and Alba being crowned county champions in the girls doubles. Additionally, four other players earned county runner-up positions. With 16 players competing across U14, U16, and U19 categories, St Bees had the second-largest turnout at the event, highlighting the strength and depth of our badminton program.

Volleyball has also been a standout sport at St Bees, where it has gained tremendous popularity and is becoming increasingly competitive. Our volleyball teams continue to excel, often competing against older, more experienced club teams, and their performances have earned them a strong reputation in the sport. To further enhance our volleyball program, we are excited to host a full day of national volleyball coaching on Saturday, 27th June. This event will bring together players from across the country for a training camp alongside our school athletes, offering a fantastic opportunity for growth and development in the sport.

We are immensely proud of the level of sport coming out of St Bees School and look forward to even greater accomplishments in the future. At St Bees we continue to nurture a culture of sporting excellence, helping our athletes reach their full potential both on and off the field.

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



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St Bees VSA

We Marched through April... May there be more sunshine this month!

Following Comic Relief's 'Do Something Funny for Money' mid-March, we ran a joke competition and produced our first Joke Book, made of the kids' entries. Still for sale if you'd like one.

On 3 April, we held an outdoor mini Easter Fair at the school where we had crafts and games for the kids. The last-minute addition of ice lollies went down a treat, perfect in the sunshine we had. And two lucky raffle winners won an Easter hamper each! Thanks to the donors and visitors, we raised £155!

The Village Easter Trail is looking to be another good one...At time of writing, we have a few homes and businesses signed up to make a display and be on our trail map. We hope you all enjoyed it. Which was your favourite?

New for this year – our first school Bingo night! Wish us luck, and hope to see you there.

For all VSA events and Village School updates, please follow our @stbeesvsa Facebook page. And finally, the VSA, along with an army of St Bees and charitable volunteers, are still busy organising the BEES BASH. Free entry again this year to an afternoon of games, live music, food and drink, games, stalls, Bee Unique inflatables and Scout camp, don't miss out! Saturday 31 May at St Bees School from midday. Get your Bees Bash Raffle tickets NOW from the Post Office, Manor, Seacote Hotel, Beach Road Bakehouse, both schools – win a luxury stay at Armathwaite Hall; just one of many, many prizes!

Jaime Lowrey (VSA Chair)

Thank you

At the end of January 2025, while taking Henry for a walk on the beach, I fell on the beach. Nobody else was there other than a confused dog wondering what I was doing lying in a pool of very cold water and not on my feet throwing his ball. Realising I'd actually broken my arm (the crunch of a broken bone is quite unmistakable), I shouted hopefully for help and my guardian angels came down the beach to help me. Please forgive me - I can't remember your names, but I'll never forget your kindness and help, and that your children played ball with Henry until my husband came to pick him up. Other people also came and helped bringing shelter too. My next guardian angels were the Coastguard and the Lifeboat men, as although the ambulance had been phoned, they would take 2- 3 hours to respond. They rescued me, got me off the beach and then after a short stay in the lifeboat station managed to get me up to the hospital and on my way to recovery too. I just want to say THANK YOU to all of you. You were wonderful!

As a postscript my shoulder was found to be in 4 pieces and I have had to have a reverse shoulder replacement. Another fracture of the same arm had to be pinned and plated. So please be careful - a simple slip on the stones at the bottom of the Lifeboat slipway can be a bit painful!

Priory Paddock

The annual “pond dipping” will take place 2 till 4pm on 4 May, the Sunday of May Day Bank Holiday weekend. It’s a great chance for children to see the pond wildlife: there’s sure to be plenty of fresh water shrimps, water beetles and water snails, and with luck also newts and tadpoles. Kids love it and there will be people looking over them to make sure they don’t get too wet.

May is probably the best time of the year in Priory Paddock, where the spring flowers are bursting through. On the sunny side beside the path there’s alkanet, white comfrey and garlic mustard (Jack-by-the-hedge). Under the trees there are lots of bright yellow celandines and wild arum lily, and around the pond there’s kingcup and yellow flag iris. It’s a riot of colour!

There’s plenty of wildlife too. The small song birds are nesting. You might see a field mouse or a slow worm if you look carefully, though they are very shy. And there are often bumblebees and butterflies: you’ll see something if you keep quiet and watch.

Do you think you might not recognise what you are seeing? Don’t worry; there’s an audio guide to help. Just scan the QR code on the gate with your mobile phone and the guide will pop up: a friendly voice telling you what to look out for and a photo of what he’s talking about. There’s a new one each month, so it’s always up to date.

So do come along to Priory Paddock. You’ll be sure to see something nice.

St Bees Green Future

Join us for our AGM on Tuesday 6 May at 7pm in New College Hall.

Come along to our Plant, Seed and Garden Tool Swap on Sunday 18 May, 2 till 4pm, in New College Hall. A volunteer from Cumbria Master Composters will also be attending to answer any questions you have about composting and provide information.

Refreshments available. This event is part of St Bees Swap Together, a series of swap events organised by St Bees Green Future to encourage everyone to reduce consumption of new items and reuse preloved items already available. St Bees Swap Together is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and is part of Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership’s ambitious emission reduction programme to make Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037.

We will also be holding a swap of hobby items – including sports and outdoor wear and equipment, and craft items - in June to mark Great Big Green Week. Look out for further details.

St Bees Seagalls

It was a good turnout for the March meeting at the Seacote Hotel. We welcomed both Joan and Judith, who are both members of Seagalls. They discussed various aspects of women’s health.

Joan started the discussion, detailing how to obtain out of hours help when you are ill, and she explained when to use GP assistance and when to use the Accident and Emergency System. The use of 111 calls was also discussed.

Judith then led a discussion on coronary heart disease in women, and how this can differ from men. We then had group exercises, where the members obtained information on topics such as nutrition, pre-diabetes and osteoporosis. Each group then gave feedback on their findings to the rest of the Seagalls.

We also had information in the form of leaflets (thanks to Ann who works in breast screening), which were available to take away, covering subjects such as the importance of breast screening and awareness.

We hope to further expand on women's health subjects in the future.

April meeting - Once again we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon tea at Stonehouse Farm. A great opportunity for everyone to catch up over some beautiful food. Many thanks to Jo and to Jean for looking after us so well.

Our next meetings May and June, 1st Tuesday of the month, will be at 7pm in the Seacote Hotel.

May will be a talk by Johnny Reid about his time based in the Antarctic and in June the former Queen's Verger at Sandringham.

The afternoon of Sunday 13th July is our 10th Anniversary Party. More details to follow.

Please remember that anyone is welcome to come to our meetings or events. Please just turn up or give us a ring on 07772523742. A reminder is also placed on the Village Facebook group.

Priory Flower Rota for May

4	Dilys Brownrigg	11	Kay Steele
18	Sally Kennedy	25	The Atkinson Family
1	June Flower Fund	8	Gill Burgess

Sincere Thanks to everyone on the flower rota for their splendid flower arrangements and generous donations – enhancing the beauty of the church. Special thanks to Pat Crichton for her beautiful Easter arrangements.

Obituary in memory of Tom Milburn

Tom was a well-respected businessman and entrepreneur who managed the Seacote Hotel and the St Bees Chalet Park for 50 years. His business latterly included Caravan Parks in the area at St Bees and Nethertown – the Beachcomber, Tarnside, and Seven Acres; and the Beach Shop. These will continue to be owned and managed by the family.

Tom also devoted much time to volunteering with various organisations. He was a member of Whitehaven Rotary Club for 47 years. He was a business mentor for the Prince's Trust for over 10 years; and worked as a trustee of Johnson House Care Home for 25 years.

His dedication has enabled so many villagers, visitors and holidaymakers to enjoy happy holidays and leisure times here over many years and we are all grateful to Tom and his family for making St Bees such a special place of wonderful memories.

Holy Mowers - Urgent Request for more Volunteers to join the Holy Mowers team – Please contact their leader Malcolm Lightfoot, phone 07500 466485. Come and assist with mowing the church grounds - the pay is negligible but there's loads of laughter and social chat!

Mothering Sunday Posies - Sincere thanks go to Liz Sim, Diane Robinson, Rena Gilmour, Gill Burgess and Mary Branford for assembling the posies and providing flowers and foliage. Thanks also to Ann Smith and the Community Garden for their floral contributions and Deb Bowler for the home baked biscuits for our coffee break and then clearing up after us. What a dream team! Barbara Hewetson

Sleeping Child Garden

The Sleeping Child Garden was first created about 10 years ago and was largely cared for by volunteers. Whilst they did a good job and everyone is most grateful to the volunteers, when Covid hit there were other priorities and the garden got out of hand.

We now have addressed these problems. John Alderson advised on what we should do, KP Arborists did some heavy pruning as suggested by him, a new fence, funded by the Friends of the Priory was erected by volunteers, and finally many azaleas and small rhododendrons planted by John, also funded by the Frinds. We are very grateful to all these people.

To ensure it is now kept under control, a gardener has been employed to spend a 2-3 hours a month weeding, pruning and generally keeping it tidy. Donations towards the upkeep of the garden are always welcome.

St Bees RNLI Mayday Fundraiser

You are all welcome to join the RNLI Mayday Bank Holiday Challenge on Monday 5th May. Come to St Bees Lifeboat Station and help to fundraise - Walk, Run, Jog or Push a Pram round the circuit from the Lifeboat House along the Prom and round the Beach Playpark as many times as you wish!

Aiming to raise £505 as symbolised in the letters SOS.

Royal Maundy Money -- Rosalie McAndrew

The tradition of distributing specially struck silver coins, Maundy Money, to older recipients is a very ancient one. It goes back to the reign of Charles II in 1662 and is inspired by Jesus Christ's commandment of love and service.

The ceremony this year took place on Maundy Thursday, 17 April, in Durham Cathedral when King Charles III presented 152 recipients with these coins. Six of them were from West Cumbria.

One of those six nominees was our own Rosalie McAndrew who was recognised for her decades of outstanding service to the church and community. The honour is richly deserved and we are delighted that her work is being recognised in this way.

Rosalie and all the local went to Durham Cathedral with our very best wishes and much gratitude.

WI News

Our March meeting, Was a short AGM, followed by a General Knowledge Quiz hosted by Jon Mellor. A huge thankyou to Jon, Quiz Master. We had a picture round First, followed by lots of different groups of questions, we all really had to put on our thinking caps, three teams attended, Well done everyone, however 'Helens' team were triumphant! Thanks to the Queens Hotel for allowing us to host our evening there.

Our April meeting was held on Monday 14th, at St Bees Village Hall Hodgetts, Finkle Street St Bees. We had a Bring and Share buffet, consisting of lots of homemade sweet and savoury items to share, followed by refreshments and a raffle.

Looking ahead to May, we will be meeting in the Seacote Hotel on Monday 12th May, 7.30pm. We are welcoming the Dean Hand Bell Ringers. Please come along and join us, there will be a chance to have a go at the Bell Ringing!! Visitors £4 and new members most welcome at any time.

Further details Village Notice Boards, our Facebook page www/St-Bees-WI. Facebook, or any WI Member.

Over 60s

On 13 May at 2pm in Hodgett's Club we will be having a talk from Citizens Advice. On 27 May we are having bingo, which is also in Hodgett's 2pm.

On Sunday 6th April the Church Wardens shared the following announcement;
“The Acting Bishop of Carlisle has appointed The Revd Becky Gibbs, at present Priest in Charge in the Benefice of St Bees, and the Benefice of Egremont and Haile, as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Crosscrake; the Benefice of Natland; and the Benefice of Old Hutton and *New Hutton*. This appointment is subject to the usual legal checks.”
I am sorry to be leaving St Bees, this has been our home for the last eight years and I will miss the Priory, churches, schools, my colleagues, the wider community and friends. I am pleased to be moving just south of Kendal, nearer to my extended family (just 2 hours down the M6 to the Midlands!) and grateful to be moving to serve alongside new friends in another welcoming and special place. My last Sundays will be on the 29th June and 6th July. Details of these will be shared soon. Rev Becky



Spring and early summer are maybe the best time in the **Community Garden**. There are the Spring flowers: lots of snowdrops followed by lots of daffodils. There's the last of the overwintered vegetable crops – just leeks this year, the brassicas failed horribly! And then there's the promise of a new year's crops, starting with early rhubarb which does really well in here. All our produce goes out onto the stall at the end of the church drive. We've also been able to offer various plants recently: Strawberries, Rosemary and Primulas. Occasionally other kind folk also leave their garden surplus produce on the stall, and that is much appreciated. Any donations we receive for the produce are ploughed back into the garden.

The Community Garden started quite soon after Rev Becky and her family arrived in the parish. Becky wanted to create an outdoor space where folk could gather, do something productive if they wished, have fun, learn and simply enjoy each other's company. The overgrown walled garden which formed part of the vicarage grounds was the perfect spot.

We've come a very long way from the massive “Secret Garden” jungle that faced us at the start. It has been a great project, and we have hopes for so much more to come.

We'd love to see more folk joining us too. Our small friendly team normally meet on a Saturday morning, but that varies a bit. You definitely don't need a lot of gardening knowledge. You don't even need to garden. Just come and sit on our lovely bench and enjoy the peaceful space.* We'd appreciate the company! *Hilary Hemm*

*If you're interested in having a look at the garden, please contact Rev Becky



National Churches Trust Cherish Grant Award

We're excited to share that we've received a grant from the National Churches Trust (NCT) that will help us to keep our church open and in good repair. You can find out more about the NCT at www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Working with our architects Crosby Granger to put together a grant application this grant award has substantially helped towards the first part of our vision for the future.

Various surveys of Priory church and college buildings have been undertaken during the latter part of 2024 and early 2025 - you may have seen scaffolding and people on ropes around the Priory recently.

These surveys and reports will inform our repair, maintenance and improvement work in the future. More about this in a later edition.

For more details please contact Gill Barlow, Church Warden via email gill.barlow64@gmail.com

More about the National Churches Trust (NCT)

The NCT vision is that church buildings across the UK are well maintained, open to everyone, sustainable and valued.

NCT impact in numbers

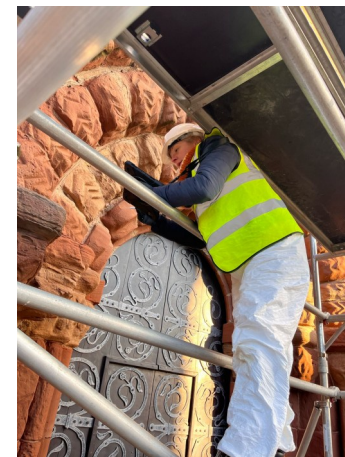
- **Over 2000 Churches and chapels** we've helped keep open, in good repair and supporting local people since 2007.

- **£ 2.8 million awarded in 2024** To churches and chapels for urgent repairs, new facilities and essential maintenance.

- **7 Churches and chapels** removed from the Heritage at Risk Register in 2024 with the support of our grants.

The Cherish project provides grants to churches, chapels or meeting houses of between £500 and £10,000 for church maintenance, urgent repair work or project development. Cherish grants are available thanks to

National Lottery players and the project is delivered in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



KIDS' CORNER



Christian Aid Week Children's activity sheet

This is Aurelia, a farmer from Guatemala. She grows cacao (used to make chocolate - yum!), cinnamon, corn and pineapples.

Aurelia has a really big family and the food she grows helps them to eat well and also helps her to earn money.

But terrible storms and awful droughts (when there's no rain for a very long time) have been destroying her crops. Aurelia knew there must be a way to protect her farm and her family. She had hope!

Aurelia met with Christian Aid's friends, called Congcoop. They teamed up with Aurelia to find different ways of farming so that she could keep her plants growing, even when the weather's bad.

Now, Aurelia's helping her community by teaching them what she's learned about farming. She wants everyone's lives to be filled with hope.



Aurelia has lots of grandchildren and she loves them all so much.

She tries to grow different fruit and vegetables so that they can have a balanced diet full of vitamins and minerals to help keep them healthy.



Guatemala
Did you know?

In Guatemala there are 37 volcanoes.

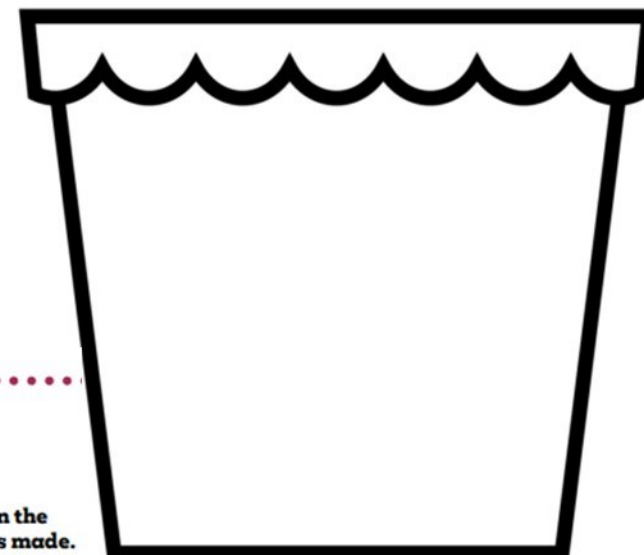
The quetzal is the national bird.

Christian Aid helps farmers like Aurelia to grow plants that stay healthy even though the weather is getting worse.

Farmers need good seeds, good soil, good fertiliser (plant food) and good water to grow good food. Aurelia and her friends are hopeful that they are now able to give their family more food to help them grow.

Who helps you to grow?

Write their names or draw pictures of them in the plant pot and say thank you to God for them.



It's one of the first places in the world where chocolate was made.