

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 News

December 2022 - January 2023



St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts) - Events for December 2022

Saturday 17th December :7.30pm - Christmas Wine Tasting Party . Come along and help us celebrate the festive season by tasting a variety of wines - accompanied by mince pies and cheese There will be a prize for the most discerning wine palate! The bar will be open for the evening as well.

Tickets £10 per person. Tickets from Jon Mellor contact 07341230954 or email jonmell@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday 27th December - Hodgetts Christmas Special Card Night 7.00pm - 10pm

Because the usual card night falls on Boxing Day we are having a Christmas Special Card night on Tuesday 27th December. Whether you are a Bridge, Whist, Cribbage, Canasta or even a Dominos player there is a table for you and the bar will be open: Cost £4pp on the night

Contact: Ken on 07432 575293

Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New!

On New Year's Eve the Priory bells will ring out the old year half-muffled, and on the stroke of midnight, ring in the New Year with resounding chimes! Spectators are welcome to visit the belfry from 11.30p.m onwards, if you can manage to climb the steep spiral stairs – at the foot of the tower near the lychgate.

Christmas Pop-in

Thursday 22 December - 10.30 to 12.00 at New College Hall.

You are welcome to attend the Pop-in before Christmas, when the gentlemen will be baking & serving their delicious cakes, and Frank will accompany carols on his keyboard.

St Bees WI News

Our November Meeting was a General Knowledge Quiz, the winner of the Quiz was **Helen Bushby**, this was followed by refreshments, and raffle. The competition was an Autumnal item which was won by Angela Blair.

Our next event is the Christmas Tree Festival at the Priory. On Saturday 3rd December between 2 – 5 p.m. please can all our members be at the Priory for the Tree Assembly, and also to help with the decorating, thank you. Our Christmas meal is at the Manor House Hotel St Bees 7 p.m. on Tuesday 13th December.

Our first event of the New Year 2023 is an evening of Gentle Yoga with May at the Seacote Hotel on Monday 9th January at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments, and raffle. Further details www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI, or contact Roxanne 823137.

We would like to wish all our members, visitors and supporters of St Bees WI a very happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you in 2023.

Seagalls

Our annual cheese and wine party at the Oddfellows Arms on the 1st of November was well attended. Thank you to Nina for your superb organisation.

We tried 4 different wines and had to guess the type and country of origin, based on taste and clues given. The cheese and wine went down well and everyone enjoyed a very sociable evening. Thank you to the Oddfellows for your hospitality.

Our next meeting is our Christmas party on 1st December at the Manor House.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish all the St Bees newsreaders a merry Christmas and a happy new year on behalf of the Seagalls.

Our calendar for next year starts in February. See our Facebook page for details.

St Bees Post Office and General Store

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

December	Shop	Shop	Post Office	Post Office
24 Saturday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	2.00 pm
25 Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
26 Monday	9.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed
27 Tuesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed
28 Wednesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
29 Thursday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
30 Friday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
31 Saturday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	2.00 pm
1 Sunday	9.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed
2 Monday	9.00 am	8.00 pm	Closed	Closed

ABC - I'll be back!

Calendar for December/January

November

29 Tuesday 5.50 - 7.00 pm Santa Parade & Switch on lights

December 2022

1 Thursday Seagalls Christmas Party, Manor House
3 Saturday 2.00 p.m.- 5.00 p.m. Christmas Tree Festival set up day, Priory
4 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Christmas Tree All Age Service
2.00 p.m.- 5.00 p.m. Christmas Fayre, Priory
6 Tuesday 12.30 p.m. Over 60s, Christmas meal, Seacote
3.00 p.m.- 6.00 p.m. Christmas Fayre, St Bees School
9 Friday 7.00 p.m. W. C. Choral Soc. & Village School Choir, Priory
10 Saturday 7.30 p.m. Celtish Touring Concert, Priory
11 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
12 Monday 7.30 p.m. Priory Singers Christmas Concert, Priory
13 Tuesday 2.00 p.m. Carols at Nethertown (Nortons)
7.00 p.m. W.I. Christmas meal, Manor House
17 Saturday 10.00 a.m. Beach Clean, meet Lifeboat Station
4.00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Priory
7.30 p.m. Christmas Wine tasting Party, Village Hall
18 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
19 Monday 6.30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall
20 Tuesday 6.30 p.m. Over 60s Bingo, Oddfellows
22 Thursday 10.30 a.m. Christmas Pop-in Café with Carols, Priory
24 Saturday 4.00 p.m. Christingle and Crib Service, Priory
11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion, Priory
25 Christmas Day 10.00 a.m. Christmas Communion, Priory
27 Tuesday 7.00 p.m. Christmas Special Cards Night, Village Hall

January 2023

1 Sunday 10.30 p.m. Holy Communion
2 Monday 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. Christmas Festival Trees removal, Priory
8 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
15 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
16 Monday 6.30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall
20 Friday 1.00 p.m. Beach Clean, meet Lifeboat Station
22 Sunday 9.00 a.m. Story Service
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
27 Friday 4.30 - 6.00 p.m. Children's Friday Fun, Priory
29 Sunday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Editor – February 2023 Magazine

The **February** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jack Hale, Abbey House, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Sunday 8 January 2023** .
Email:jack.hale@newcastle.ac.uk Tel:01946 822409

St Bees News

December - January 2022

I'm a huge fan of tradition at Christmas...the Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas stockings, chocolate for breakfast, dad unwrapping his annual gift of underwear and then wearing them on his head until dinnertime (The last one may not be a universally recognised yuletide tradition) The repetition of the familiar is a comfort to many of us at this time of year, serious or silly, these anticipated annual actions are part of what Christmas is all about.

My dad's antics with his pants got me thinking...what other strange habits do people indulge in this season? A quick search of the internet threw up some fascinating answers. In the week leading up to Christmas, Venezuelans attend a daily church service called Misa de Aguinaldo (Early Morning Mass). In the capital, Caracas, it is customary to travel to the church service on roller skates. This practise is so widespread that many roads in the capital are closed until 8am to provide Christmas worshippers with a safe passage. This sounds like fun but if you choose to follow their example, and attend the Priory Midnight service on roller skates this year, just remember that it will be uphill going home.

Three years ago we started a new tradition in the vicarage...Christmas dinner on Boxing Day. Last Christmas I was excited to pick up this tradition again. I got up very early to prep the turkey and vegetables. The turkey was huge, about 17lbs, but I managed to stuff it, wrestle into the last of the foil and get it in the oven before the sun came up. Later in the morning I walked with Benji to the beach and watched the Tractor Trundle. Back at the vicarage the rest of the family started the day with a coffee impressed and somewhat surprised by my efficiency in the kitchen.

Several hours later we were ready to eat. Phil commenced his family tradition—Chief Turkey Carver. Shortly after wielding his giant pointy fork he turned to me a little puzzled and said “There's something wrong with this turkey, nothing's where it should be?” It quickly became obvious that, despite a turkey clearly having two distinct sides, a front and a back, I had managed to stuff and cook it upside down. It tasted fine, which was a relief, but on reflection I think it did make it harder to stuff, and definitely more challenging to carve, so I don't think we'll be starting an “upside down turkey cooking” tradition. If you think that cooking a turkey upside down makes me rather eccentric, just remember that I grew up with a dad who regularly wore his pants on his head.

There are some traditions that I will miss this December. The passing of life and time mean that not everything can last forever. The monarch's Christmas day address to the nation will be different this year and I will miss the ever so familiar sound of our late Queen's message. Our King will struggle with this transition more than any of us I'm sure. Like him, we may miss the familiar and comforting presence of a family member this year. We may long for traditions that keep us feeling comforted and safe.

Continued on page...10

Christmas Celebrations at the Priory

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols – will be on **Saturday 17 December** at 4.00 p.m. (note not Sunday)

Tea/Coffee & festive fare will be served afterwards. All most welcome!

Please contact Sally Kennedy or Claire Hale or Cath Lightfoot if you can provide mince pies, choc. crispies/brownies for the Christmas services.

The Christingle Service will happen on **Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December** at 4.00 p.m. – take note! You will receive a decorated orange to remember Jesus the Light of the World. A collection will be taken for the Children’s Society for homeless youngsters. All Welcome!

Decorating Christingles – Please drop off bags of oranges by Sunday 18th Dec. at church or at Pop-In on 22nd or to R. McAndrew – and join us on Friday afternoon 23 December from 2.00 to 4.00 pm to decorate the Christingles. Also do sign up in church for supplying soft sweets, munchmallows, grapes & cocktail sticks. Thankyou!

Note – meet us in New College Hall. Phone Rosalie on 01946 822326 for info!

Carols at Nethertown – A Christmas service of carols and readings will be held at the Old Country Club, courtesy of John & Elizabeth Norton. Residents of Middletown, Coulderton and Nethertown and Lakeland Chalet Park are very welcome to attend. Tuesday 13 December at 2.00 p.m.

Christmas Communion Services – Midnight Communion at 11.30 p.m. on Saturday 24 December

Christmas Day Communion at 10.00 a.m. (note time) on Sunday 25 December

Advent Midweek Communion – Thursday mornings at 9.45 a.m. on 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd December – a short service in the Lady Chapel, prior to the Pop-In café.

What’s On at the Priory in December:

Concert with West Cumberland Choral Society & Village School Choir – Friday 9 Dec. at 7.00 p.m. Also featuring Brass Band Ensemble - and Harp.

Tickets £10 or pay at door. Under 18’s free with an adult. All welcome. Refreshments served.

Celtish Touring Concert – Christian folk group, instrumental and vocal – will perform on Saturday 10 December at 7.30 p.m. Donations appreciated.

Christmas Gifts under the Priory Tree

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

News from the Village School

It is a year ago that we sadly informed you that our Village School Association would be folding. Since then we have tried our best in school to raise funds but we have come nowhere near to the success of the VSA. Amongst the events we used to hold annually were the Village School Fete and parade, the Scarecrow Trail, Fashion shows, Easter Fayres, Bingo evenings, Christmas Fayres ... the list goes on. The good news is we have had a grandparent come forward who has high hopes of restarting the VSA and is looking for people to get involved. No specific skills required; just plenty of enthusiasm and any time you can spare. Lots of opportunity to make new friends and have fun along the way. You do not have to be a parent or family member of our pupils – anyone can join. Please ring Joy on 07764236055 if you are interested.

We have news of big changes afoot within School. Our parents will know that we have recently consulted themselves and staff on the possibility of joining the local Multi Academy Trust. Moving forward, if our application is successful, it will be Easter 2023 when this occurs.

We are also delighted that the official age range for our school has been changed from 4-11 years to 2-11 which means that the Pre-School is now officially part of St Bees Village School.

It was lovely to attend Armistice Day service again at the Priory this year. The Reverend Becky Gibbs delivered a lovely remembrance service to the whole school. They observed a minute’s silence and all children joined in to create a beautiful piece of artwork with their poppies which read, “My peace I leave with you”.

Happily, we have been able to plan all of our usual Christmas time events within school this year and have a very busy month ahead. We will have had an early Christmas lunch by the time this goes to print but throughout December, including our Christmas Service at the Priory, we will have our Infant Nativity Play, Early Years Christmas Show, Christmas Parties and Christmas Disco(s).

School closes at 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 20th December and re-opens Wednesday, 4th January 2023.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year from all at the Village School.

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Boxes of Hope Cumbria

Sincere Thanks from Rosalie McAndrew and Noreen Woolaghan on behalf of Boxes of Hope Cumbria to all who supported the appeal for gifts to destitute families in Romania. A wonderful total of 20 filled boxes and five bags of beautiful knitted woollens (hats, scarves, gloves & socks) were received by the Priory – plus soft toys, toiletries, writing materials, and spare box fillers. Thankyou to our many donors of gifts and cash or cheque donations too. We are delighted to hear that Tom and Noreen's daughter Ceri will be going out to Romania to assist with the distribution of the shoeboxes.

Huge Thankyou from North Lakes Foodbank

Many thanks to everyone who donated groceries to the Foodbank harvest collection at the Priory – those at the Sunday Harvest Festival and the children from the Village School at their harvest service on the Monday. It was all much appreciated and will benefit many local homeless people.

From the Priory Registers:

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Holy Baptism

16 October Alice Julia Eccles 1 Abbots Way, St Bees
6 November William Wise

Holy Matrimony

22 October Paul McShane and Clare Flanagan, 128 Victoria Rd., Whitehaven

Christian Funeral

3 November John Clark Fairladies Farm, St Bees

Memorial Service

23 October Rhoda Bryan Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim (formerly of St Bees)

May God's blessing be with you all.

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family of John Clark of Fairladies Farm mourning the sad loss of a dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. We keep in our prayers Lucy and sons Robert and James and their families at this time.

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

Priory Flower Rota for December/January

Season's Greetings & good wishes for 2023 to all on the weekly flower rota – and thanks for the many kind donations this past year. Church flowers are appreciated by all.

December	Advent – No flowers	25	Christmas – Pat Crichton
January	1 Flower Fund	8	The Bragg family
	15 Mary McGee	22	Mary McGee
	29 Eleanor Crichton		

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Parish Council

Santa Parade- the Parish Council is planning to organise a Santa Parade again this year. The parade will take place on **Tuesday 29 November** and Santa will visit as many areas of the village as possible. Santa's sleigh will set off from Fairladies at 17.50 p.m. The route will start within the Fairladies estate, travel down Main Street, turn into Seacroft Drive, back onto the Main Street, Station Road, around the Beach Estate, back along Abbey Road, to the end of Wood Lane and back, across the railway, up to the top of the Crofts and back down to Cross Hill. Santa will switch on the lights on the Christmas tree on Cross Hill at 19.00 p.m. Santa's elves will accompany him on bicycles and we hope to have the usual collection for RNLI funds.

Planned road closure – a section of Main Street will be closed from 5 December for 5 days for essential gas works. The section affected is from the junction with Sea Mill Lane northwards for 100 metre.

Beach Cleans- The next organised beach clean will be on Saturday 17 December. Please meet at 10 a.m. at St Bees Lifeboat Station. Litter pickers and gloves are available to borrow. We will meet on Friday 20 January at 1p.m. at St Bees Lifeboat Station for another beach clean. Thank you for your help.

Defibrillators –All three of the Parish Council's defibrillators have been subject to a product recall and have required a software update. All are now back in operation, should they be required in an emergency.

Beach Borrow Box – The box of beach toys available for visitors to borrow at the beach has proved successful over the summer months but will now be taken in for the winter.

Places to Talk – As part of an initiative by Cumbria Public Health, a session was held in the Village Hall on 20 October where people could reflect on their experiences of the Covid pandemic and lessons to be learned. Thank you to all those who attended.

Parish Council Meeting –. The December Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 19 December at 6.30 p.m in the Village Hall. The January meeting will be on Monday 16 January 2023. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

And finally the Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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More December events

Friends of the Priory & Priory Singers Christmas Concert: 12th December

It has been said that Christmas starts in St Bees when the Priory Singers hold their Christmas concert. In that case, reserve Monday 12th December at 7.30 p.m., when they will be presenting a miscellany of Christmas music and readings in the Priory - and there will be a chance to join in with Christmas favourites as well! Festive drinks and nibbles afterwards! Donations to our funds appreciated.

Many sincere thanks to all who have supported our events this past year; thanks too to our speakers Anthony Payne for his fascinating talk on Shangri-La and to Philip Barratt for his intriguing talk on Agatha Christie and her Poisons.

This month a request will be sent to the Friends members to remind them of the new subscription rate - £10 per member or £15 per couple or family, as from January 1st.

Our Friends newsletter will appear in the New Year.

Grateful thanks for all your support and generosity. Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to all!

St Bees School Christmas Fayre

From 3p.m. to 6p.m. on Tuesday 6 December, St Bees School will be hosting a Christmas Fayre. The event, which will be a nice warm up to Christmas, is organised and ran by members of the school's Enterprise Club (which includes students from the village). Entry is free and cake and coffee will be available for a small fee. The event will also feature a number of stalls which will be manned by students and by local producers, and will offer guests an opportunity to purchase something bespoke.

Over 60s

On December 6th our Over 60s will be having Christmas dinner at the Seacote Hotel, 12.30 for 1p.m. There will also be entertainment. Our last meeting of the year will be a bingo in the OddFellows, Tuesday December 20th, start 6.30 p.m. The committee would like to wish all our members a merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

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That Finkle Street Shop

Several times lately these history pages have mentioned the grocery store in Finkle Street run by a Mr. Goss. There has now been a suggestion that no such shop ever existed, and that I am confusing our Finkle Street with another of the same name elsewhere. But although I think there is ample evidence of the shop's having been here, I wonder whether any reader can add anything to confirm or refute it.

To begin with, there is the account of the late Mrs. Irene Patterson. She had lived almost opposite, and she told me that as a girl she had helped Mr. Goss in his shop. Her excellent book about her childhood - "Half A Stone of Flour" - says :

' Mr. Goss's shop was much bigger than ours and stocked with more interesting things. The heavy mahogany counter stretched across the shop, with the bacon machine sitting on one end, and the biscuit tins with glass tops standing on the floor in front. The aroma of coffee and spices mingled with the smell of ripe cheese as you went into the shop '.

Elsewhere she had written of Mr. Goss's unfailing courtesy, and I recall her telling me of his kindness to her when as a very little girl she delighted in searching his shop for things he had lost. Only later did she realise that he commonly mislaid them deliberately, to give her the excitement of finding them again for him. Her reward was usually a long-lasting sweet - a bull's-eye or even better, an aniseed ball.

This photograph from around the 1890s shows what I take to be the shop's frontage. At that time it was still being run by the Edward Walker family, who in the 1880s had diversified into the manufacture around Finkle Street of pickles, preserves and a range of flours. This was soon the major part of a large and growing business, which may explain why in 1925 the little retail shop became available for Joseph Goss.

If any reader is still sceptical about this version of the lower end of Finkle Street, I suggest reference to Donald Brownrigg's book 'Old St. Bees'. There his additional information, and some more excellent photographs, bear witness to the Walker enterprise's success.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group



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St Bees School

Sixth Form growing from strength to strength.

We are very excited to share the growth of our Sixth Form here at St Bees which has been incredible. Only two years ago, we had a single Sixth Form student ... this year, we have almost over 30!

As we continue to grow, our Sixth Form offering is going from strength to strength, too. With more and more local students joining us at St Bees, it's humbling to see just how far we have come since our re-opening in 2018.

So, what is it about our Sixth Form that has encouraged this boom in admissions?

Firstly, our small class sizes are very appealing to students who are looking to get ahead in their studies. Some classes only have two or three students, making it much easier for teachers to spend quality one-to-one time with students.

One of the key benefits of this is that it allows students to experience a taste of authentic university teaching. Based on the likes of the Oxford and Cambridge Tutorial / Supervision system, students interact with their teachers in lessons more as academics and are active participants in their discovery of learning.

This personal approach to education also extends to our UCAS and career support. As we are small compared to other Sixth Forms, we get to know our students inside out – what makes them tick, what they're most passionate about and where they want to go in life. This means that we can offer tailored advice when it comes to looking at options beyond Sixth Form – from choosing the right course for the career they want or finding other alternatives in apprenticeships or other courses if university isn't for them.

In Year 13 especially, we have regular check ins with our UCAS applicants to ensure that they are on track with their applications and even help them when it comes to choosing which offer they want to accept.

St Bees Sixth Form is also unique in the fact that it is international. We have students joining us from all around the world, making the community very unique in West Cumbria. Our local students love that they have friends from different countries, and it really expands their knowledge and appreciation of other cultures and languages.

You may notice that we don't hold any open days at St Bees, and that's because every day is an open day to us. We love showing prospective families around while the school gets on with its day as it perfectly captures the true atmosphere of St Bees. It also gives the families the opportunity to talk to the students and staff themselves and hear their views and opinions directly from those in Sixth Form.

Admissions for Sixth Form (and the school in general) are always open, and we would love to give you a tour so that you can see what St Bees has to offer for yourself.

If you would like to look around or enquire about a Sixth Form place, please email Ceara, Head of Admissions, at admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk today.

St Bees Priory Christmas Fayre - Sunday 4th December 2022

Come along to the Priory Christmas Fayre on Sunday 4th December which is running from 2-5 p.m. Entry is free and here is what will be waiting for you:

In Church - a first look at all the fabulous trees (vote for your favourite tree and leave a donation if you are able). Get in the festive spirit with Egremont Town Band who will be serenading us with carols!

In Old College Hall - visit the craft stalls and the children's craft activities.

In New College Hall - enjoy a range of refreshments- tea, coffee, juice and cakes.

Please note that this event will be CASH ONLY.

All proceeds from this event (excluding craft stall holders) will be shared between Hospice at Home West Cumbria and the Priory.

Parking is restricted at church - please park responsibly or walk if you are able.

St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival December 2022

Thank you so much to everyone who has entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival - the Priory is going to look truly spectacular throughout the festive period! Here are just a few reminders for set up day on Saturday 3rd December and also for those wishing to visit during the following weeks:

Arrival on set up day is any time between 2-5 p.m. Please remember a stand for your tree and £10 cash for your entry fee. You will be given an area to place your tree along with an entry number to display alongside it.

Visitors are warmly encouraged to visit church during the festival period from Sunday 4th December to Monday 2nd January. Please vote for your favourite tree using the voting box which will be located at the back of church; the winning tree will receive £50 as their prize and this will be announced in church at 2.30 p.m. on Monday 2nd January.

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

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

Continued from page 1

That is, of course, completely understandable, but I am reminded that the first Christmas was far from safe or comfortable. A compulsory census, in a crowded town, meant that Jesus was born in extremely basic, temporary accommodation. In the first years of his life he was visited by outcasts and hunted by a despotic King. Wise men from foreign lands brought him gifts fit for royalty and gifts to anoint him for burial. Traditionally the more frightening parts of Jesus' birth and childhood don't feature in Nativity plays, for good reason, but it's important to remember them.

It's important because without them we can be lulled into a sense that if Christmas isn't delivering all that it promises then there's something wrong with us or the season. When in fact Christmas is both pain and promise. Emmanuel. God with us. In both life and death. When everything is familiar and when our world is turned upside down.

This Christmas if you'd like to find out more about God's gift of his Son Jesus to the world, why not come along to a service in the Priory or if you fancy something a bit less traditional, wander around the church and enjoy the Christmas tree festival.

And while you're there, if you spot me, I'd love to hear about your Christmas traditions. Although be warned, if your stories make me laugh, or feature unusual headgear, they might feature anonymously in a sermon or a Christmas letter in the years to come.

With love at Christmas and the New Year,

Reverend Becky



Fun Fridays starting in January for 5-11 year olds!

From Friday January 27th a new Fun Fridays will start for 5-11 year olds in St Bees Priory. It will run from 4.30-6pm on the last Friday of every month. It will include music, games, crafts and food. For more information contact Deb Lee lee535877@aol.com 823470. See you there!

Village in Bloom

2023 will see the start of 30 years of Village in Bloom. Two members of The Heritage & Tourism Group (Eileen Todd & the late Enid Smith) were asked to start "florifying" St Bees for entry in the County "In Bloom" Competitions - success gradually led to being invited to enter the National Competition & the Village in Bloom Group was born! Eileen can still be seen tending to planters, mainly on Cross Hill, but anywhere throughout the Village.

We had a successful year decorating the village suitable for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It has also been a sad year with the passing away of Aileen Rule. Aileen enjoyed her work sessions with us and grew "attached" to the bowser watering all relevant beds & planters. Her illness did not stop her carrying out watering duties - when she did not feel well enough she sent her son or brother to water on her behalf. She will be really missed by us all.

We are now down to four regular volunteers. Thank goodness we have several seasonal helpers who provide water, get water to the plants, clip Box plants in the Bus Turning Circle bed & arrange the baskets on the Main Street. Maintenance and Technology experts are also very important and essential to keep us running smoothly.

P.S. Extra hands are always welcome.

Eileen, Diane, Pat and Kathie

St Bees Green Future

Thank you to everyone that came along to our clothes swap in November. Look out for details of the next clothes swap, which is planned for February. These swaps are a great way to update your wardrobe while you save money and help the planet.

TerraCycle no longer offers a free recycling scheme for medicine blister packs, so unfortunately we are no longer able to offer a drop off point in the village. Thank you to St Bees Post Office for hosting the collection tub over the last year and to everyone that has used the drop off point - we were able to keep 28 bin bags of medicine blister packs out of landfill via the scheme.

It is still possible to recycle the following items in the collection tubs detailed below:

- Used pens at St Bees Post Office.
- Used plastic toothbrushes, toothbrush heads, toothpaste tubes and dental item packaging in the tub on the step of 61 Main Street.
- Plastic packaging from crisps and other savoury snacks at the beach cafe.
- Plastic packaging from biscuit, crackers and cake bars at Overbeck on Sea Mill Lane.

Please email stbeesgreenfuture@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the mailing list for occasional information about the group's activities and upcoming events.

Lunga's Christmas Message

Hello. Lunga here. Have you ever been to Ennerdale Water? One lovely sunny October day I went with mammy. We met some dogs. At first the path was narrow and at times like a river. I had to lead mammy carefully so that she did not fall. We then came to little piles of apples. I like apples, but mammy wouldn't let me eat them all as she said I'd be badly! Then there was grass where I could run.

On the track we met a few vehicles and men finishing their forestry work. There was a boy going home from school in taxi. Suddenly a red squirrel scampered across the path. It had a black tail for winter – when it comes. If mammy had been a bit quicker, I feel sure I would have caught it. She said that it went up a tree 'cos it lives there - how odd. In these dark early mornings, we meet the birds getting up. They seem to fly low at first - blackbirds, robins, wrens, and dunnocks.

Did you like Halloween? That seemed fun as there were things on people's doorsteps to examine, though mammy made me avoid most of them – spoil sport!! However, I found a piece of pumpkin in the hedge and enjoyed that. I like butternut squash as well and once found a whole one on the beach softened by the sea.

Now mammy seems busy with cooking, letters, cards, and parcels - I supervise. She says on a special day I will get a present too - the paper was good I remember. She also seems to be doing a lot of singing again, but it's quite pleasant. Finally, mammy says we must wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. By the time you get your next magazine I will be two years old so I suppose my brothers and sisters will be as well... just imagine. Then we will all be really grown up.

Enjoy. Lots of licks and tail wags from Lunga and Best Wishes from Claire Summers his mammy.

October Local Artist's Display - Outcome

Similarly to last year, the last week in October saw the West Cumberland Railway Museum invite local artists to display their works with a view to raising their profile, as well as maybe selling the odd item. In the end, 14 artists participated - twice as many as last year - in a wide variety of mediums, with a goodly number of sales. Over the 5 days, around 300 people visited with everyone saying it was an excellent idea - not least because on a couple of days it provided a good and entertaining shelter until the rain stopped! So thank you to everyone who attended, with a special thanks and congratulations to the artists involved. We held a Best in Show competition where everyone could vote for their favourite item, and pleasingly, every participant gained votes with the winner being "Autumn Wood" by Ray Nixon who won a bottle of wine. Second place went to a young Ukrainian student, Natalya Beldynska - who was definitely the most local as she lived above the museum! Although the museum is usually free, I decided to set up a donations box on this occasion with the proceeds going towards helping those in crisis due to the invasion of Ukraine, and I'm very pleased to say £175 was raised on the day - a big thank you to you all.



As many of you will be aware organisations including local authorities, community councils, faith groups and sports clubs are setting up, or looking to set up, 'Warm Spots' within local communities to help those struggling with the cost of living. 'Warm Spots' are intended as a local as places within local communities where people can find a safe, accessible and warm environment during the day to help reduce the cost of heating their own homes and to help those facing extreme fuel poverty this winter.

St Bees now has it's own "Warm Spot" called "**Wednesday Winter Warmers**" in **New College Hall every Wednesday from midday-4pm** through the winter. In collaboration with St Bees Public School and the Parish Council we are offering a warm space, welcome, refreshments and company.

If you'd like be part of the "Wednesday Winter Warmers" Warm Spot Volunteer Team please email Rebecca Rendell at r.e.rendell@gmail.com

All volunteers are safer recruited in line with CofE best practise.

If you'd like to come along as a guest and have any questions please email or give me a call. My contact details are on the back of the magazine.

Reverend Becky Gibbs and the St Bees Warm Spaces Steering group (Rachel Walker, Hilary Hemm, Claire Summers, Grant Gilmour and Rebecca Rendell)



Help with heating costs (www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/)

You may be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Grants available include the Winter Fuel Payment and the Cold Weather Payment. www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

For more information on how to reduce your bills and make your home more energy efficient, go to <https://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency> or call the government helpline on 0800 444 202.

You can also find out about benefits and financial support if you're on a low income at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/low-income>



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

Christmas Blessings and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy 2023 to all Neighbours and Friends. David and Avril Allen (Dodding)

We wish all our friends the joy and happiness of Christmas and a peaceful New Year - Pam & Peter Argyle.

Jim and Anne Baker wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Philip and Maureen Barratt wish everyone in St Bees a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Christmas wishes to all friends and acquaintances in our area. Edward and Blanche.

Deb and Frank wish their friends and family in St. Bees a very Merry Christmas and send good wishes to all for 2023.

Wishing all my friends and family in St. Bees a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. With love from Ursula Rowlands.

Seasons Greetings and all Good Wishes for 2023. Mary & Ernie Branford.

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

A very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to friends and neighbours far and near from Jane & James Craig & family.

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

Merry Christmas marvellous mates! May you enjoy much merriment with great mirth! Love Anna & Dick.

Gweneth Denson & her family send their love and best wishes to everyone for a happy, peaceful Christmas. Grateful thanks for help and support during a very difficult year.

Mark, Sarah, Tom & Emma George would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Matthew & Diana Griffiths.

John & Eleanor Haile wish everyone Blessings and Happiness for Christmas and 2023.

Leonie and Ian Hill send Christmas Greetings to friends and neighbours and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Bob & Thelma Jopling send Best Christmas Wishes to their friends and neighbours in St Bees, with very sincere thanks for so many kindnesses received throughout this last year,

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

Best wishes for Christmas & New Year to friends and neighbours from Malcolm & Cath Lightfoot.

Dave and Val Maudsley with their family wish all friends and relatives a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful 2023.

Best wishes to all friends and neighbours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2023 from Ian & Rosalie McAndrew.

Pat McDonnell wishes all friends & neighbours Joy at Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

To my friends in St Bees and at the Priory, wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Angela McGill.

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

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

Alex and Eileen O'Fee would like to take this opportunity to wish all relatives and friends a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and also a healthy 2023.

Seasons Greetings from Irene Palmer in Bradford-on-Avon to her friends and neighbours in St Bees. Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

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



To friends and family, Best Wishes for Christmas & New Year. Gill Richardson.

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

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

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

Colleen Townson wishes family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

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

On behalf of Dorothy Warbrick we would like to wish everyone a peaceful festive season. Special Christmas greetings to those supporting her.

Ian Watson extends Christmas Greetings to all his friends in St Bees.

