

## 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](mailto:enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk)

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

### Hire of Priory & Halls

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

### Booking Officers

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

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

### Magazine production & distribution

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

Circulation - over 1,000 households in St Bees Parish

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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## St Bees Parish A B C

<b>Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - TBA.	<b>History Group</b>	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Arts Society</b>	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.	<b>Judo Club</b>	meets regularly at NCH. Contact <a href="mailto:sankaikunjudo@gmail.com">sankaikunjudo@gmail.com</a> or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
<b>Bellringing</b>	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.	<b>Over 60's Club</b>	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
<b>Scouts, Beavers</b>	1st Beckermert & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall 8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	<b>Parish Council</b>	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email <a href="mailto:pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk">pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk</a> , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
<b>Cubs</b>	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	meets 10 times a year. Elections are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - <a href="mailto:r.e.rendell@gmail.com">r.e.rendell@gmail.com</a> , 07977 096426.
<b>Choir</b>	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	<b>Playgroup (Toddler Group)</b>	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.00 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from <a href="mailto:glitznglam1610@yahoo.com">glitznglam1610@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Currently Tom Kelly + 3 vacancies.	<b>Pop-in Cafe</b>	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
<b>Councillor</b>	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. <a href="mailto:Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk">Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk</a> Tel -07840 844424	<b>Pre-School</b>	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church	<b>Priory Singers</b>	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
<b>Fair Trade</b>	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - <a href="mailto:lee535877@aol.com">lee535877@aol.com</a>	<b>Priory Web Site</b>	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk">http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk</a>
<b>Finance</b>	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.	<b>Rangers</b>	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact <a href="mailto:calderdivision@gmail.com">calderdivision@gmail.com</a> for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
<b>First Responders</b>	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497	<b>Seagalls</b>	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
<b>Football Association</b>	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.	<b>St Bees Triers</b>	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email <a href="mailto:running@triers.uk">running@triers.uk</a> Tel. 823497 Web <a href="http://www.triers.co.uk">www.triers.co.uk</a>
<b>Freemasons</b>	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or <a href="http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk">www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk</a> .	<b>Village School Association</b>	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : <a href="mailto:stbees.vsa@gmail.com">stbees.vsa@gmail.com</a> or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
<b>Friends of the Priory</b>	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.	<b>Village Hall</b>	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
<b>Garden Society</b>		<b>Village in Bloom</b>	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522).
		<b>Village Web Site</b>	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or <a href="mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk">imcandrew@stbees.org.uk</a> Address is <a href="http://www.stbees.org.uk">http://www.stbees.org.uk</a>
		<b>Women's Institute</b>	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

## Calendar for July - August

1	Saturday	11.00am	Village Orchestra Summer Concert, Priory
		11.00 -5pm	Open Gardens & Teas, Woodend House
		12.30- 8pm	St Bees Bash & Stalls, St Bees School grounds
2	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		11 am-5pm	Open Gardens & Teas, Woodend House
4	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Club with Morris Steele, Hodgetts
8	Saturday	10am-2pm	Lowes Court 50 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, Egremont
9	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
11	Tuesday	2.00 pm	WI visit to the Beacon
		7.00 pm	Church Council meeting, NCH
15	Saturday	2.30 pm	Wedding of Liberty Allen & Charles Lee, Priory
		2.30 pm	St Bees Beach Clean, meet at Lifeboat Station
16	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
18	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Club, Salvation Army Talk, Hodgetts
17	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
22	Saturday	12.15 pm	Wedding - Victoria Kay & Aaron McGlennon, Priory
23	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
29	Saturday	1.00 pm	Wedding - Rowan Mellor & Conor Cresswell, Priory
		10am-4pm	St Bees SeaFest & Sand Sculptures, St Bees Beach
30	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion

## Calendar for August

1	Tuesday	Leave 11.00 am	Over 60s Club trip to Lakes Centre & Cockermouth
5	Saturday	2 – 5.00 pm	Saturday Family Fun Afternoon, Priory & Grounds
6	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
13	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
19	Saturday	1.00 – 4.00pm	St Bees Annual Flower Show & Teas, St Bees School Sports Hall
		10.00 am	St Bees Beach Clean, meet at Lifeboat Station
20	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
27	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship

**Story Service** at the Priory at 9.00 am on Sunday 23 July and 27 August

## September

1	Friday	7.30 pm	Cumbria Opera Concert, Priory (Joan Rodgers & artistes)
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## Editor – September 2023 Magazine

The September issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Anthony Payne, 83a Main Street, St Bees** who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Tuesday 8 August 2023** please.

**Email : [payne.croeso@btinternet.com](mailto:payne.croeso@btinternet.com) Tel: 01946 822637**

## St Bees News

## July - August 2023

As I write this many students are finishing their exams and beginning to look for work. Some are joining the workforce for the first time, waiting tables or washing up for the summer holidays, others are graduates seeking permanent employment.

At the start of the summer break in 1994 I was looking forward to a semester in the States in the Autumn of my second year of uni but desperate for cash. Luckily, my digs were near Wimbledon and I got a job on Court 12, pulling the covers across when the rain came. The tournament was only disturbed by rain twice, the pay was poor (£2 an hour) but I got to watch a lot of tennis, for free. The rest of summer wasn't quite so glamorous. In July I moved home to live with my parents, packed taps in a factory and spent most of August entertaining bored children in a Holiday Club.

Since then I have been fortunate to find a vocation and be paid to do what I love, rather than simply work for the money. I haven't always worked for the church but since I returned from that Semester in the States in the Autumn of 94 I've always tried to live out my Sunday faith on a weekday too.

The author Mark Greene writes in his book 'Thank God it's Monday' that "there is no division. If the Christian life doesn't work nine to five, then maybe it's no more than a nice leisure activity, like aerobics, golf or crocheting.

God's identity doesn't change after nine.

And our identity doesn't change either."

In his book Greene does acknowledge that there are some professions where it's far from easy to express an identity that seems odd to your colleagues and peers. There are some workplaces where backbiting, swearing, gossiping and unhealthy competition are seen as the norm. To not conform is to put yourself in the firing line. But to conform is to compromise your faith. I have met people in the various places I've worked, in factories, clothes shops, cafes and schools who have managed to find a way to live out their faith like silent revolutionaries. It's only after they've left that their colleagues have said "there was something about them, something good".

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving". (Colossians 3:23-24)

Whatever work we do, whether worthwhile or tedious, dangerous or fulfilling we have some power and influence in our workplace, even if that power and influence only extends to how we choose to behave.

So if you're a student searching for a summer job, a graduate looking for permanent employment or you're just trying to get through another day in the office I pray that you may have the courage to be you and to do something good wherever you are.

With love from Becky

## Priory News

**Dedication of the Embroidered Banner** - On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May a special ceremony was held when Bishop James visited to bless the 900 Anniversary Banner, stitched by the ladies of the Embroidery Group to commemorate 900 years of worship at the Priory. Posies were presented to the ladies who were able to attend and photos taken of the occasion. We were all delighted to see Ralston Smith there with his son David, in loving memory of Dorothy who supervised the Embroidery over the four years of meticulous and dedicated work. Sincere Thanks go to the ladies involved for their most beautiful work of art – to Pam Argyle, Leonie Hill, Gay Bettinson, Sue Davidson, Pat McDonnell, Dilys Brownrigg, Lesley Rutherford, Eleanor Haile, and Thelma Jopling. Congratulations one and all on your artistry.

**Christian Aid Collection in May:-** The system of envelopes inside the Parish Magazine proved useful. We are pleased to announce that £613 was raised, boosted by 20 Gift-Aid forms with pledges totalling £322. Sincere thanks to all donors in the parish, and thanks to our C.A. rep Deb Lee, who preached in the Priory on Christian Aid Week this year. Further donations were given online by many parishioners.

**Deepest Sympathy** is extended to the family and many friends on Kenny Hooks of Low Walton Farm, who died in hospital in May. The Priory church was packed to the doors for his funeral, a testament to Kenny's kindness and generosity in helping others, and his willingness and cheerfulness. He was well-known locally as a farmer, a builder and roofer, tackling many projects. He was a good workman, always ready to enjoy a good craic with mates. He doted on his family, welcoming all and enjoying celebrations. Especially he loved spending precious time with his two little grand-daughters. Ken was a true gent who will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Denise, Robert and Davinia, and all the extended family.

**Sincere Sympathy** goes out to the family and friends of Elizabeth Farquhar (nee Jefferson) whose funeral was held at the Priory on 9<sup>th</sup> May. She was a well-known personality in the county, who had a great commitment to her work, to the care of her parents and to all her friends. She and her sister Constance (known as Lizzie and Connie) became proprietors of Jefferson wines on the death of their father Henry in 1979. At that time Jeffersons Wine Merchants was the oldest family-owned wines & spirits business in the country, having traded from the same premises on Lowther Street for over two centuries. Liz became an expert in wines and the wine trade. She had great strength of character, remarkable tenacity and vivacity too. She was a good and loyal friend to many, and honorary 'auntie' to many youngsters in her life. Much loved and lovingly remembered. We keep her husband Peter and all family and friends in our thoughts.

## When did we first have Scouts?

Last month's magazine brought very good news of Scouting and Guiding in our area. Probably few of those enrolled now realise how far back in St. Bees history their Scout Group goes.

It was when I was exploring the stories of our War Dead that I wondered which of them might once have been Scouts. Of the thirty young men killed in the First World War, nearly all would have been of the right age. The Second War took the lives of another nine, including one who had had been a Scout Patrol Leader (he was later lost at sea) and another who died when his unarmed Catalina flying-boat was shot down off Finisterre.

In the Scout Association's records, the first mention of St. Bees comes in 1934. At that time a Mr. Robinson of Richmond Crescent was Scoutmaster, with Miss Short of Finkle Street running Cubs. But the Troop must have been active before that, for a 1922 parish magazine has Alfred Ainley the Vicar giving them use of an outbuilding behind the Vicarage, for which Mrs. Ainley found nineteen chairs. And there must have been Scouts even before that, for in the same year Mr. Ainley refers to "*Boy Scouting reviving again under the leadership of Mr. Tom Park*".

We are fortunate in having some Scouting pictures in a collection of glass photographic plates recovered years ago in an attic clearance. Photography was a hobby of our Choirmaster/Organist, Francis Livesey, and it is thanks to him that we have a number of images from turn-of-the-century St. Bees. I wondered whether the Archivist at the Gillwell Park Scout Headquarters might be able to date the pictures by the boys' uniforms. He was very helpful: he said their haversack and belts and buckles, all point to 1909 or 1910. So too does the wooden staff each boy carries. And a further indication of an early date is that no boy displays an achievement badge, the badge system being a late development.

Scouting began in 1907 with Baden-Powell's camp on Brownsea Island. Mr. Ainley seems to have been interested in the Movement from the start. Whether it was through his influence or not, Scouting was clearly active here within the next two or three years. Thus the new 1<sup>st</sup> Beckermeth and St. Bees Scout Group can claim as long a history as any in the country.

As a private postscript please may Thelma and I (after some seventy years of involvement with Guiding and young people) use this magazine page to wish the new Unit every possible success.



Bob Jopling, Village History Group



## St Bees School

### Founder visits from China for first time since Covid

Full Circle Education Managing Director and Founder of St Bees School, Danny Wang, has made his first visit to the West Cumbrian Independent School since before the pandemic.

Danny Wang is the Managing Director of the group that runs St Bees School UK and over in China. Full Circle Education came to the school's rescue after closing its doors back in 2015.

Since then, the school has gone from strength to strength – growing at an astronomical rate, but because of the pandemic, Danny hasn't been able to see the school's success first hand...until this week.

Arriving on Thursday, Danny appeared just in time for the school's annual Speech Day and prize giving ceremony; a staple in the history of St Bees and the most important day of the academic year.

During the ceremony, Danny addressed the congregation, telling of future plans for St Bees. He said: "It's been great to be here, the last time I visited was in February 2020 – just before the pandemic began.

"Despite the pandemic and the struggles all of our campuses have faced, the plan and future for St Bees has never changed.

"At St Bees, we believe learning is not just about being inside a classroom, teams in the UK and in China are working very hard to create educational changes.

"I would like to thank all the teachers and staff but most importantly those studying at St Bees for leading a vision."

As well as attending Speech Day, Danny was given a tour of the school by a group of students – some of which were in Year 7 the last time he was able to visit. He then went on to meet staff in all departments, and was able to attend the meetings he usually joins online, in person.

St Bees School Headmaster, Robin Silk, spoke of Danny's visit saying: "We were more than thrilled when we heard that Danny was going to be able to visit us for the first time in a while.

"The school has grown and changed massively since the last time he was here and we hope he is proud of what we have created here at St Bees – we are already looking forward to the next time Danny can pay us a visit!"

Danny leaves the UK to head back to China later on this week, but he hopes to return soon and looks forward to seeing more of the school's success.

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## *Friends of the Priory*

The Friends celebrated their June Festival with Choral Evensong – a beautiful uplifting service. Sincere thanks to Revd's Jim & Anne Baker for leading, to Rev'd Becky for the welcome and benediction, and to Frank and the choir for the glorious music. A delicious Tea Buffet was much appreciated. Thankyou to all the bakers and servers of food, and to all who attended.

Thanks also to Neil Bettinson who led a guided tour of the wildflowers in Priory Paddock on 11<sup>th</sup> June. On a lovely summer's afternoon many flowers were identified - for the Big Green Week.

**Seagalls** - Our June meeting turned out to be a really enjoyable evening. We spent the night taxing our brains to answer Jon Mellors excellent quiz questions. He must have pitched it just right as we managed to answer most of them as a team effort. I think we all managed to learn something new especially on the North of the border picture round. Did you know there is a statue of Desperate Dan in Dundee? Thanks to all at the Seacote for making us welcome as usual and for the food. Lynn Arrighi gave a short talk on organising the voluntary car scheme if anyone is interested and would like to get in touch with her. All welcome to join us, please see contact details on the back of the magazine. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

## *From the Priory Registers*

### *Holy Baptism*

30 April	Jude Jackson	5 Outrigg Place
28 May	Fern Lilly Wilkinson	Sandwith
28 May	Neil Jeffrey Braine	St Bees
4 June	Samuel George Robinson	Sandwith

### *Confirmation at St Leonard's, Cleator*

28 May Emma-Jane Taylor, Alison Morris, Neil Braine

### *Christian Funeral*

30 May	Mary Wilson	Thornhill, Egremont
12 June	Kenneth William Hooks	Low Walton Farm, St Bees

May God's Blessing be upon you all and your families.

## *Priory Flower Rota for July/August*

2 July	Barwise/Hewertson family	9 July	Eleanor Haile
16 July	Margaret Westhead	23 July	Ruth Edgar
30 July	Joan Edgar		
6 August	Bone family (c/o Val Maudsley)	13 August	Atkinson family
29 August	Mary Branford	27 August	Claire Summers

## *Parish Council News*

**Village in Bloom** – Everyone will have seen the colourful flower beds, tubs and baskets around the village but many may not appreciate that they are the result of the hard work of a small group of volunteers. The Village in Bloom group is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year but the number of volunteers is gradually reducing as age and illness take their toll and new volunteers are needed to ensure that the group can continue. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons for a work session, weeding, planting, watering & keeping the beds tidy. Over the summer months volunteers are also needed to help with watering at the weekend. If you are interested in being part of the group (whatever your availability), please contact the Parish Clerk (email [pc\\_clerk@stbees.org.uk](mailto:pc_clerk@stbees.org.uk) or tel 822560) and a member of the V-I-B group will be in touch.

**Beach Toilets** – Some of the render on one of the external wall of the toilets has started to come away. The Parish Council is seeking quotations for repairs and hopes to get the work done as soon as possible.

**Anti-social behaviour** – There has recently been an incident when a newly installed water butt on the Village in Bloom shed on the St Bees School playing field was pulled off its base. If anyone has any information about this, please let the Parish Clerk know. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has asked residents to report any incidents to the 101 number. Unless the person reporting the incident is the owner of the property involved, the police may not be able to give a crime number immediately but don't be deterred from making a report – the information will be recorded and passed to our neighbourhood officers.

**Information boards** – The village maps at the station and outside the Post Office are now out of date. New maps have been created with help from former resident, Tony Pennick, and we hope to have them in place in the coming weeks. New interpretation boards are also planned for Priory Paddock.

**Highways Survey** – 3300 households selected at random across Cumberland will receive an invitation to take part in a national survey of highways and transport services – from the condition of roads and footpaths to the quality of cycling facilities. The answers will be compared with the views of other members of the public across the country, as part of the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction survey. If you receive an invitation, please do take part.

**Next Parish Council Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 17 July in the Village Hall. The Parish Council does not meet in August so the following meeting will be on Monday 18 September. Council meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

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## Local Councillor Cumberland Council Cllr Graham Minshaw

Cumberland Councillor for Egremont North and St Bees  
[Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk)  
Telephone 07840 844424



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## ***Christian Aid Week thank you!***

Thank so much for your support this Christian Aid week. It will help create long-term change for people living in poverty. You can watch the thank you film from Malawi and learn about the impact of Cyclone Freddy and why your Christian Aid Week donations and fundraising are so important. Cyclone Freddy (sounds so friendly, doesn't it) hit Malawi just before Christian Aid Week and displaced 500,000 people. Somehow our news did not really prioritise this catastrophe.

You may remember that the focus of Christian aid Week was the humble Pigeon Pea. It showed its strength and value as the floods from Cyclone Freddy ripped away farmers' fields, along with their houses but the Pigeon Pea, with its deep roots, stood firm. One of the reasons I support Christian Aid, is that they work by first understanding and working with the local people and helping them to identify their main obstacles out of poverty. Christian Aid then helps mobilise the community to overcome those obstacles. That was why the Pigeon Pea project started. Maize dies in drought and washes away in floods, as happened with storm Freddy. The Pigeon Pea was used as an intercrop before Christian Aid, with the local Farmers' Association trained farmers how to grow them effectively and sustainably and provided seed peas.

Who would have thought that the simple pea could send children to school, feed families, provide health facilities and help develop businesses! But it can only do that with your ongoing support. Perhaps you would like to set up a direct debit. You can do this and watch the thank you film at [www.caid.org.uk](http://www.caid.org.uk)

## ***Family Fun Afternoon Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August*** **in St Bees Priory and Grounds 2-5pm.**

A joint venture with St Bees Green Futures and Friday Fun. (Please note there will be no Friday Fun on July 28<sup>th</sup>)

Come along and:

- Enjoy a tea in the Vicarage Garden
- Visit the Community walled Garden
- Learn how to protect our planet
- Visit the Priory Paddock and go pond dipping
- Make and Play games
- Make and take home toys and wild flower gardens
- Do lots more things!
- Have fun!

For more information contact Amy Linton [amylinton1983@gmail.com](mailto:amylinton1983@gmail.com) or Deb Lee [lee535877@aol.com](mailto:lee535877@aol.com)

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## *News from the Village School*

The end of term is coming up fast! We are only a stone's throw away from the Summer holidays and as such, we want to update you on events over the last few weeks and changes for next academic year.

Our residential was a huge success - Y5 and Y6 went to York and Y4 to Lockerbie and both trips were enjoyed hugely by the children and staff alike. Our children were very much complimented on their good behaviour which always makes us very proud as a school. We had the Y5 and Y6 play which was such fun, led by Mrs Hansen, a Cumbria take on the popular musical Grease.

We are all feeling incredibly positive and looking forward to our end of year activities including parties and Year 6 Leavers Assembly. We are also doing St Bees Has Got Talent for the children! What a great way to end the year!

A reminder that St Bees Bash is going ahead again this year and will be held on St Bees School grounds on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. As part of the day there will be a fancy-dress parade and all children and parents are invited to take part if they wish. School staff and the VSA will be organising and manning stalls at the event which will also have a variety of family-oriented activities and events on offer.

We are having the school completely rewired over the summer holidays so please ensure that you are with your children if they come to play on the school field during the break as there will be a lot of workmen on site and areas may be unsafe.

We continue to work towards joining Changing Lives Learning Trust next academic year with our potential date being 1<sup>st</sup> September. The date may change as the works go forward and we will let you know as soon as possible if this is going to be the case.

We are very sad to say goodbye to Miss McCarron, our Reception class teacher, at the end of this year as she moves on to pastures new. We wish her all the very best for the future and hope that she will pop by from time to time to let us know how she is getting on.

School closes at 1.30pm on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July and re-opens on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you for your continued support.

E Sharp

Headteacher

## *Grassroots*

### **St Bees and District Garden Society Show**

St Bees & District Garden Society Annual Show Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 1.00 pm in St Bees School Sports Hall. As ever, we expect a big display of produce for the competitions in categories including vegetables, flowers and cookery. If you would like to enter the instructions are available in the Post Office. Or just come along to admire the displays. Auction of produce at 4.00 pm.

**Graphic Arts:** Wet Weather, Feather Friends, Photo with a caption, Beach Art, In the wild, Home grown

#### **Flower arrangement - 'The King's Coronation'**

**Age 4 and under:** Face on a paper plate, Hand print

**Age 5 to 9 inclusive:** Collage, Drawing or Painting - A flower, Decorated/Painted pebble, Face on a paper plate, Fruit and or Vegetable creature

**Age 10 to 16 inclusive:** Flower arrangement in a jam jar, Decorated plant pot. Max pot size 6" (15.2cm), 2 Decorated Weetabix, Photo of My Pet

**Help** - We are looking for anyone willing to help us by making cakes, buns, tray bakes, chocolate crispies, shortbread, biscuits etc for the refreshments table. We shall also require volunteers on the day to help serve tea and coffee.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact Corinne on 07527 890378 or email [corinne\\_stbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:corinne_stbees@hotmail.co.uk). Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**Beach Clean** - Join the beach cleans on Saturday 15 July at 2.30 p.m. and Saturday 19 August at 10a.m. Both meeting at St Bees Lifeboat Station. Litter pickers and gloves available to borrow. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees beach clean.

**Closure of St Bees Toddler Group** – Sadly the playgroup which met in New College hall has closed down, due to declining numbers. The leaders regret having to close but the group was no longer viable. Many thanks to all the organisers who have managed Toddler Group over the years.

#### **Woodend House Open Garden** - Woodend, Egremont, CA22 2TA

Saturday 1 July and Sunday 2 July, 11.00 am to 5.30 pm.

Home made teas with delicious cakes, extensive plant stall & local garden crafts for sale. Admission £4.00/adult. Children are free & there is a fun garden trail for them. All money raised goes to the National Garden Scheme that support many, vital, nursing & caring charities including; Macmillan Cancer Care, Marie Curie nursing, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Parkinson's UK and more.

#### **Claiming Date - Village Hall**

**Sunday 17 September** - Long Way Home - Stories and Songs.

## Grassroots

### St Bees Seafest Annual Festival & Sand Sculptures

Celebrate Seafest Annual Festival at St Bees Main Beach- Saturday 29 July 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Organised by Cumbria Wildlife Trust – A family-friendly event with tasters and cooking demos from local chefs; arts & crafts activities; rockpool rambles; beach yoga; guided birdwatching surveys, etc.

Also the famous Sand Sculpture Competition – booking required for this @ £3 per pitch. To book please phone 01539 816300 or email [events@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:events@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk)

You are asked not to bring dogs into the mobile rockpool tent, as the sea creatures may be alarmed.

**Congratulations** to three local ladies Claire Hale, Gill Barlow and Kirsty Maidment on completing their Great North Swim on Windermere for charity on a very hot Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June – raising funds for Alzheimers. If you would like to contribute, go to the 'Just Giving' page –

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gillian-barlow6> or hand your donation to Gill Barlow.

**Summer Concert by the Village Orchestra** will be held in the Priory on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 11.00 am. Special Thanks to their conductors Alison Morris and Frank Bowler for their wonderful work in developing the musical talents of this family orchestra in St Bees.

**Over 60s club** - Our next event will be an audio visual presentation by Morris Steele called "Lock down in Eskdale". That's on 4<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm in Hodgetts Club (the village hall).

On 18<sup>th</sup> July The Salvation Army will be coming to talk to us about the work they do locally and nationally. This is also in Hodgetts Club.

August 1<sup>st</sup> is our last meeting until September. It will be a trip to the Lakes Centre and Cockermouth. The bus will leave The Oddfellows at 11am with the usual pick ups. This trip is open to non-members. If you would like a place on the bus please contact Gill 822394 or Dot 8226222.

**Welcome** to Corinne Burnett and Charlee on their long-awaited move to 4 Outrigger Place after a delay during house renovations. Best Wishes to you both in your new home.

**NSPCC St Bees** - The recent Strawberry Tea raised £480 . Many thanks to everyone who supported us.

### Whitehaven Summer Fair & Continental Market at the Harbour

**Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 July** - Special events organised by Whitehaven Town Council – Bouncy Castles for children; Street Theatre on 21 & 22 July; Openair Photo Exhibition in St Nick's Gardens all week from 17 July. Do come along and enjoy!

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## Lunga's take on holidays.

Hello. Lunga here. Have you had a chance to go on holiday? I seem to go on two types of holidays. The days start normally with a walk and food. Mammy has her food and then packs lots of food into big bags. I get anxious when some of my blankets, toys and even my dishes disappear into a big yellow bag. Mammy puts lots of things into the car. The car starts, but I'm not in. Help! But I soon jump in and off we go. We stop after a while and have a walk along a lane with lots of sniffs. Then it's back into the car and a little while later arrive at the caravan. Obviously, I need to look after the site, and we walk round and then get out all the bags. Mine comes out first of course. We do lots of different walks and each lunchtime go on the beach: you never know what is left there: apple cores, crisps, biscuits, and more. I like the caravan.

My other holidays also seem to start normally but then we are on the move. A blue bag with my name on is packed with a blanket, three toys and food and we set off. Sometimes we go for a nice walk by a river and up a little hill and down a forest path. Mammy says it's called Dent. I then get to see all the other dogs at my hotel. We always greet each other very noisily! Mammy leaves me - she must have other things to do. I get to go walks with other dogs - I even walked with one off my brothers. It's good, but even better when mammy comes to take me back home. Do you like getting home after your holidays? All for now. Enjoy your break away if you're able to have one and then appreciate your home.

*Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers.*

## Priory Paddock

Summer's here and Priory Paddock is looking spectacular! The dainty spring flowers are over now, but replaced by the much bigger, or at least taller, summer flowers. There's alkanet, meadow cranesbill and red valerian; and over it all there's the enormous great willowherb whose country name is "codlins-and-cream". You can't miss it - it's the one you have to look up at. In case you didn't know, you'll find Priory Paddock off the Dandy Walk beside the playing field between Pow Beck and the church. Or you can also get into it from the church graveyard. It's a lovely spot with a seat where the sun comes nicely at midday and the trees form a windbreak if there's too much breeze for your taste. Or you can shelter from the searing Cumbrian sun in the shade by the pond and around the spring. It's a little gem!

**Stop Press!** There is now an audio guide to Priory Paddock, updated every month or more often when things are changing quickly. There's a QR code like this fixed to the Paddock gates. By the magic of the internet you photograph that with your mobile phone and up pops the audio guide. You'll hear Neil Bettinson describing the plants you come across as you walk along, and a picture appears so that you can be sure that you're looking at the right one. So if you don't know your ragged robin from your red campion this is the place to come. Do try it out.

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## *A celebration of St Bees in verse*

### *Coffee and cake*

I see problems around me, I'm troubled myself,  
Can't afford the mortgage, I worry for my health?  
I see worry lines all around my face,  
I need to relax , I'm a basket case.  
But I look at St Bees, there's comfort to take  
As the church folk solve problems with coffee and cake.

When the weather is wild and the seas are rough,  
When I'm frustrated inside and times are tough,  
When I'm tired at work and relationships strained,  
When the boss is angry, looking to me to be blamed.  
There's a simple solution and make no mistake,  
The church folk of St Bees make coffee and cake.

The cost of living is rising, in crisis, they say.  
It's cold outside so under the duvet, we stay.  
The boiler isn't working, the heater is bust.  
The gas man is busy, my appointment is last.  
But I know that on Thursday the ladies will make  
A splendid arrangement of coffee and cake.

There are many ways I try to keep myself calm,  
Like bath salts and candles and different balms.  
I've tried Paul McKenna's ideas to calm me down  
But nothing seems to stop me from wearing a frown,  
I chastise myself thinking, for goodness sake,  
But I'm calmed at the church hall by coffee and cake.

War rages in Africa, Syria, Ukraine,  
Leaders are looking for someone to blame.  
Global warming needs countries to always agree  
About cutting emissions. It's easy to see  
St Bees has the answer with so much at stake  
Get round the table with coffee and cake.

*Pete Seex*

Nat and I have been in the village a year now. We really appreciate the community spirit and friendliness of St Bees. Although it is difficult to put my finger on exactly what it is, I think I know where it comes from!!



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

Gardens are wonderful places, and the **Community Garden in the Vicarage walled garden** is no exception. In the Priory we aspire, among other things, to "Tread Gently" and to "Care Deeply". The community gardeners put that into practice. We sow, nurture and harvest vegetables and flowers and we do so without using any chemicals or noxious treatments. We try to share the produce (and indeed, the garden) with the whole community and hopefully many of you will have seen and maybe used produce from our stand at the end of the vicarage drive. We keep around half of the plot wild to encourage wildlife. Obviously the gardeners give their time and effort to produce the veg and flowers. But we get so much back in return: companionship, exercise, a real sense of peace as we work away or just sit for a few moments and enjoy the scene. For me there's a real spirituality about gardening too. And it's amazing how many problems get solved while you garden! It's wonderfully therapeutic.

So while we're thinking about treading gently, caring deeply and making St Bees a greener village, do remember the Community Garden. It is there for everyone, whether you fancy coming to work with us or just to pop in and have a look, a chat or a rest on our lovely bench. We're there most Saturday mornings from 10.30 – 12.30. Come in, have a peep through the gate!

**STOP THE PRESS! SATURDAY FUN!** Friday Fun and Community Garden joint event on Saturday 5th August from 2-5pm. More details in this magazine. *Hilary Hemm*



**According to UNICEF**, 160million children worldwide are still in child labour. Of these, 70% are working in agriculture and producing our food. This is one of the reasons that buying Fairtrade is SO important. When you buy a Fairtrade product, you can be assured that the only way that children were involved is that they are more likely to be in school and have access to basic health services.

St Bees Green Futures are doing much to ensure that the community plays its part in protecting and enhancing our environment. Did you know that part of the Fairtrade agreement with farmers is to encourage them to do the same. Enabling and rewarding sustainable farming methods, such as capturing rainwater, supporting reforestation, reducing the use of pesticides and fertiliser by using natural methods.

Thank you Fairtrade.

## The Priory perspective



Last month was



Last month was **BIG GREEN WEEK**. We introduced “Creation Care”. This is an opportunity for you to assess your contribution to better care for our amazing planet. It covers 7 areas including your food, possessions, home garden etc and gives you ideas to do even better. Please sign up today at [www.creationcare.org.uk](http://www.creationcare.org.uk)

*Deb Lee*



**We will listen to our local communities, and respond in loving service, seeking to transform injustice, challenge oppression and pursue peace & reconciliation**

## Caring Deeply and Safeguarding

A year ago I wrote a piece for the magazine about Caring Deeply and our Safeguarding work.

In the Priory we need to care deeply by making sure that we have a safe place, where everyone who comes into church or who joins a church activity will be in a caring and safe environment. Everyone needs to know for sure that they will find a place and an organisation that cares about them, that knows how to treat everyone well and that will also keep a watch out for any concerns that anyone may have – and then deal properly and promptly with them. That is what Safeguarding is all about.

We've worked really hard over the past year to ensure that our team members are fully trained in Safeguarding matters, in compliance with Church of England requirements. We're working with all those who assist in services, the Pop-in café on Thursdays, the music and the bellringing. The majority have now completed their training and we're assisting the rest to complete the “Basic Awareness” and “Foundation” courses run by the Church of England. Some have followed additional leadership courses too and as you would expect, the ministry team are required to do more. Parish Safeguarding policies are regularly reviewed and are displayed in all church buildings and linked on the website.

We need to Care Deeply for every one of us. We need to be sure that everyone can trust that the Priory and its activities provide a safe and caring environment at all times. We need to look after each other. A big thankyou to everyone who has participated in this and “Care Deeply”. God for All.

*Hilary Hemm, Parish Church Safeguarding*

## Women's Institute

I hope you have all been enjoying the wonderful weather we had during May and June, the gardens are looking fabulous, if a little thirsty! Our June meeting was an evening get together at the Seacote Hotel. Our July event is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm for 2pm at the Beacon Museum Whitehaven. We will have a look around the permanent exhibitions and the new Titanic Exhibition, (which is visiting Whitehaven during the Summer months) followed by refreshments on the Harbour.

We do not have a meeting in August due to holidays, but resume on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm at the Seacote. We are welcoming the fabulous Lesley Connolly Jewellery. Lesley will talk about her jewellery business from its origins, and where she sources her wide array of materials for her fabulous creations. There will be an opportunity to purchase direct from Lesley, she will bring a selection from her collection, there will be something for every taste and pocket. So if you are looking for a unique gift, early Christmas shopping, treating yourself, a family member or friend, please do not miss the opportunity to make a purchase right on your own doorstep!

Visitors/non-members welcome £4 including refreshments. There will also be a raffle. Further information from our website [www.St-Bees-WI-facebook](http://www.St-Bees-WI-facebook), or Roxanne 823137, or any Committee member.

## St Bees Bash

The Bees Bash is back in St Bees again on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 12.30pm to 8pm.

Organised by the existing Community Committee, RNLI and VSA teams, we hope to put on a great day for our community and raise funds for our local charities.

There's the parade followed by live music, food and drink, Bee Unique inflatables, fun stalls and raffle on St Bees School Grounds.

Tickets are on sale now from St Bees Post Office and the Village School Office. £7.50 per adult, kids are free.

Look on our Social Media pages @stbeesbash for more information, and the odd vintage fete photo too. Spread the word. We hope you can all join us.

obo St Bees VSA & Bees Bash Charity Committees.

## Priory Tree Work

Maintenance work on several trees on the Priory grounds is planned for the end of of July beginning of August.

Unfortunately the copper leaved tree adjacent to the Priory has to be felled as it is in a dangerous state due to bracket fungus rotting the trunk. Some of the work on the poplars by the Lych Gate require the brief use of traffic lights while some road overhanging branches are reoved.

Permission has been sought and granted by Cumberland Council for all this work



maintenance, Village in Bloom, special events, speed-watch and beach cleaning. We would like to thank all those who have helped; the council is a bigger thing than just monthly meetings.

*Doug Sim, Chairman, April 2023*

## ST BEES PARISH COUNCIL

### List of councillors May 2022- April 2023

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Eric Taylor ( <i>Vice Chairman</i> )	21 Fairladies, St Bees CA27 0AR
Pam Argyle	34 Main St., St Bees CA27 0AA
Neil Bettinson	22 Main St., St Bees CA27 0AA
Debbie Bowler ( <i>resigned June 2022</i> )	Glebe Cottage, Priory Close, St Bees CA27 0DR
Grant Gilmour	Grenville, 47 The Crofts, St Bees CA27 0BH
Nicholas Graham ( <i>co-opted Nov 2022</i> )	17 Fairladies, St Bees CA27 0AR
Claire Hale	Abbey House, St Bees CA27 0DR
Andras Kaldos	5 Hillside, St Bees CA27 0AP
Amy Linton	Overbeck, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees CA27 0BD
Jon Mellor	Cross Hill House, Cross Hill St Bees CA27 0BL
Doug Millington	Sea View House, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees CA27 0BD
Hayley Monaghan	Fairways, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees CA27 0BD
Simon Ritson	5 Richmond Crescent, St Bees CA27 0EP
Chris Robson	Fern Bank, High House Rd., St Bees CA27 0BZ
Jane Donaldson ( <i>Clerk</i> )	East House, Couderton, Egremont CA22 2UR

## St Bees Parish Council

### Chairman's Report for the year to April 2023

#### Cumberland Council

During the year the Cumberland Council shadow authority has been working to prepare for the new Cumberland Council, which became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. During that time Cllr Graham Minshaw has attended PC meetings to gather information about village issues and brief us on the development of the new council. Cumberland takes over from Copeland and Cumbria, and Graham, as a Cumberland Councillor, will now be our single conduit for principal authority issues in the village.

I would like to thank the out-going councillors, Chris Whiteside for Cumbria and Jeff Hailes for Copeland, for their time spent at our meetings and their pursuit of the many issues that have occurred over their years in office.

#### Traffic calming and safety

The volume and speed of post-Covid peak traffic through the village has remained at tolerable levels due to Sellafield actions in reducing the amount of private car traffic to their site. This is due partly to the Sellafield Travel and Transport plan. The traffic calming gateway features agreed with Cumbria CC on the B5345 have unfortunately not been fully implemented yet. The speed-watch camera group has operated through the summer months.

#### Cycle track link to Whitehaven and C2C cycleway

This project concept has huge support locally and would enable a level-access walking and cycle route along the valley bottom to Whitehaven and the national cycle network. There are still route uncertainties due to the coal mine, and we are closely monitoring the implementation of the mine's rail loading facility.

#### Station travel hub

Our station car park extension plan, which would yield about 30 new parking spaces in the centre of the village, plus the land to site public off-street electric car charging, is being progressed with stakeholders. These include Copeland BC, Cumbria CC, Sellafield Ltd, and Network Rail.

#### Community projects

The parish council once again organised and sponsored the Christmas tree on Cross Hill and the Santa parade followed by switching on of the tree lights. The village was toured by Santa with an escort peloton of cycling elves, and a large number of villagers turned out to watch. The route gets longer every year, and nearly £300 was collected for the RNLI.

### **Tree planting and environment**

We have been planting trees since 1973 (the national ‘Plant a tree in seventy-three’ campaign), and we are still planting and maintaining trees around the parish on marginal area and land we manage. Work is also continuing on maintaining and improving the Priory Paddock wildlife area, and a Friends group has been formed to help. At St Bees common, for which the council has management responsibility, the access footpath across the site has been cleared to allow Taylor tarn to be easily visited.

### **Flooding and drainage**

The winter of 2022 saw serious problems due to flash floods and overwhelming of the drainage system; particularly in the Abbey area, St Bees School, and the Main Street. The council has worked with County Highways to expedite prompt clean-up, and ensure on-going investigation of root causes and longer-term remediation where practicable. A number of concerned villagers have attended council meetings and the topic has received considerable scrutiny. Apart from environmental changes, a major problem in many places is the inadequate and aged road drainage system, where surface water shares pipes of limited capacity with the foul water system.

### **Interpretation boards**

Following the installation of a new interpretation board summarising the history of the village at Stonehouse Garden, new boards about the Heritage Coast and the Beach have been installed at the beach shelter. The beach shelter has also been repainted by a council working party.

### **Beach litter**

The heavy use of the beach has accentuated the need for suitable bird-proof bins at the beach, and an enhanced regime of emptying. These are mostly the responsibility of Copeland BC, and we have been collaborating with them on finding improved solutions, and will continue this with Cumberland Council.

### **Outrigg play area**

We have been planning a significant upgrade and refurbishment of the Outrigg play area. The equipment has been owned and maintained by the Parish Council since the 1960s, but the land has been owned by Cumbria CC, which has made grant funding difficult as funders require the council to have security of tenure. We are hopeful that with possible land ownership changes this situation will improve.

### **Planning**

The parish council is a statutory consultee for planning consent, and we have been monitoring the Planning Inspectorate scrutiny of the Copeland local plan prior to adoption. Part of this involves proposed development areas in St Bees. We have made representations about the unsuitability of village roads for larger scale developments and the need to stay with the village development boundaries to prevent ribbon development

along highways. We continue to exercise due diligence on reviewing all plans submitted within the parish.

### **Footpaths and Seats**

We have continued to inspect footpaths in introduce improvements where necessary. A number of walks have been organised, and new walk guides have been published on the web site. Two Platinum Jubilee seats have been installed along Wood Lane. It is hoped to improve the kissing gate from the business centre car park to accommodate push-chairs along the track.

The junction of the public footpath from the Beach Estate has been made safer by lobbying Cumbria Highways to create a gap in the wall allowing access directly across the Beach Road.

### **Anti-Social behaviour**

To help tackle anti-social behaviour in the village, there have been a number of drop-in sessions with Cumbria Police in attendance.

### **Green initiatives and Climate change**

The parish council continues to organise a monthly beach clean, with 25 volunteers taking part in March 2023 as part of the Great British Spring Clean. A Climate Change Working Group has been formed, with parish councillors and representatives from the community working together to explore how as a parish we can take further action on climate change.

### **Parking**

Alleviating pressure on parking is a continual village concern. Following representations from villagers we have lobbied against the proposed creation of a disc zone in the Main Street and the introduction of more yellow-lining in Finkle Street, but we have suggested new yellow lines at the top of Seamill Lane to make this junction safer. This has been formally approved by CCC. Hopefully the signage will soon be changed.

### **Platinum Jubilee**

A working group of councillors and volunteers organised the parish celebrations for the Queen’s platinum jubilee, including a very popular street party on Cross Hill. This is going to be repeated for the Coronation celebrations.

### **Finance**

We are mainly funded by the parish precept, which is part of the Council Tax. Our precept income was £52,000, of which approximately £16.5k was administration, £20.5k was for asset maintenance (including beach toilets and play areas), £6.2 k for open spaces (including grass cutting), and £6.4k for projects. For the coming year (2023-24) the Council tax increase for our precept has been kept to 1.8%.

### **Volunteers**

The council attracts a number of volunteers and groups for help with specific tasks such as; play inspections, the web site, tree-planting, defibrillators, footpaths, public area