

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge
01946 822279 or 07460 990631
revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088)
Associate Priest of St Bees Priory
Rural Dean of Calder

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498)
The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

Sunday Services in Church

Services every Sunday at 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm
9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family)
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays Holy Communion - 10.30 am
2nd and 4th Sundays Morning Worship - 10.30 am
6.00 pm Evening Prayer (1st - Evensong, 4th - Communion)
Services are also Live Streamed

For weddings, baptisms, funerals and other religious occasions, please contact
01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk
Priory Web Site - <http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk>

Hire of Priory & Halls

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

Booking Officers

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk
Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

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

Circulation - over 1,000 households in St Bees Parish

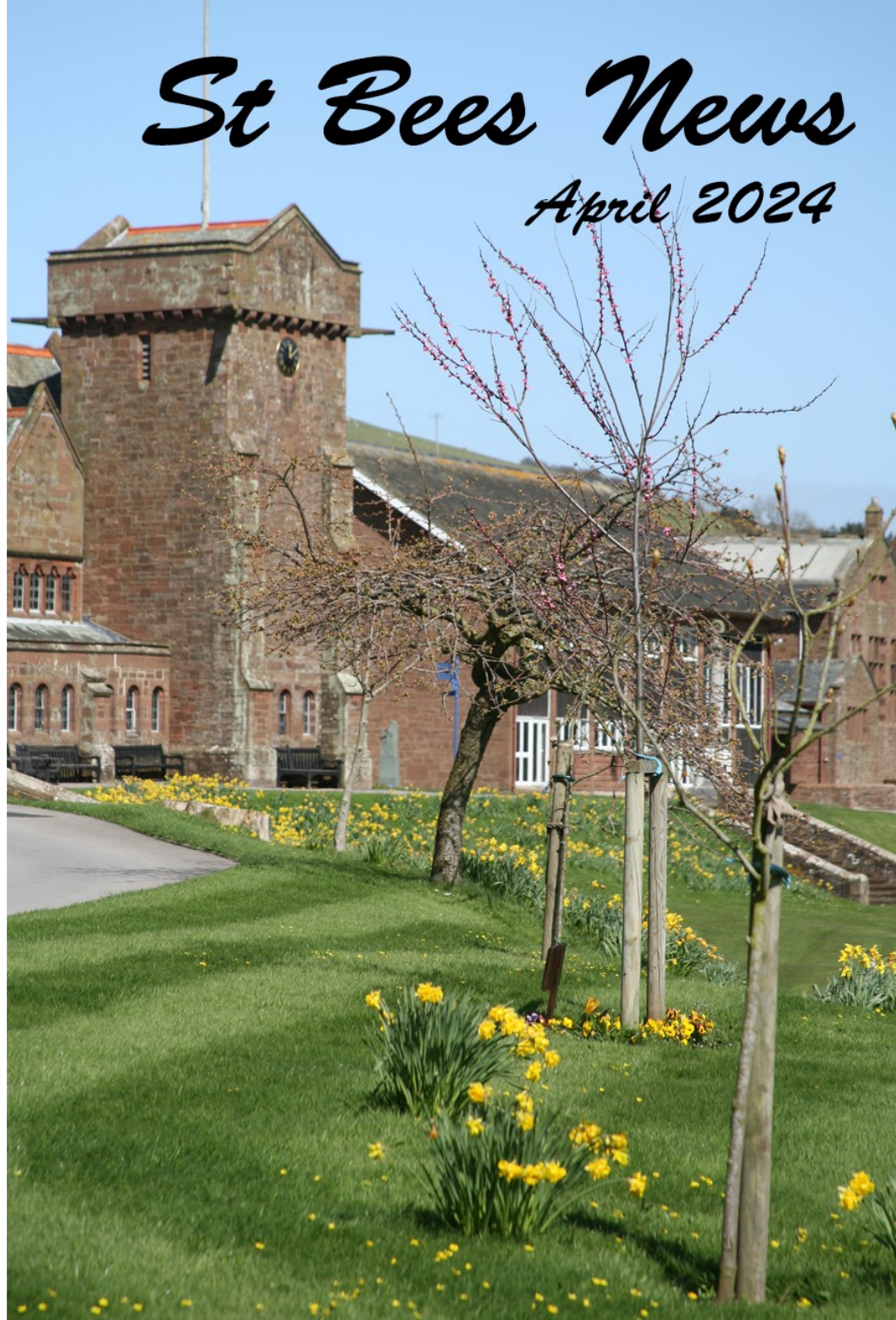
* - Treasurer - Norman Killip, Honeybee House Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BD.

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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St Bees News

April 2024



St Bees Parish A B C

Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - TBA.
Arts Society	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.
Bellringing	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 18 The Crofts. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
Scouts, Beavers	1st Beckermert & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall 8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Currently Tom Kelly + 3 vacancies.
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel -07840 844424
Electoral Roll	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
Fair Trade	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
First Responders	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
Football Association	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk.
Friends of the Priory	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.
Garden Society	

History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
Judo Club	meets regularly at NCH. Contact sankaikunijudo@gmail.com or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk, who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - r.e.rendell@gmail.com, 07977 096426.
Pop-in Cafe	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
Pre-School	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
Priory Web Site	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk
Rangers	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact calderdivision@gmail.com for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
St Bees Triers	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
Village School Association	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

Calendar for April 2024

Calendar for April 2024

2	Tuesday	2.00p.m.	Over 60s Easter Bonnet Competition, Village Hall
7	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
8	Monday	7.30p.m.	WI Bring and Share Buffet, Village Hall
14	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Morning Worship
15	Monday	6.00 pm 6.30pm	Annual Parish meeting. Village Hall. All welcome. Parish Council meeting, Village Hall.
16	Tuesday	10.00a.m.	Over 60s trip to Hayes Garden Centre
19	Friday	2.30p.m.-4.00p.m. 7.30p.m.	Preloved sale, St Bees Village School Friends of the Priory talk: "Adventure and Survival in the Congo", New College Hall
21	Sunday	10.30a.m.	APCM and Holy Communion
27	Saturday	2.00p.m.-4.00p.m. 5.00p.m.	Book Launch, St Bees Priory Beetle Drive, Village Hall
28	Sunday	9.00a.m. 10.30a.m.	Story Service Morning Worship
29	Monday	1.00p.m.-3.30p.m.	Easter Fair, Village School Hall First day of Easter Trail

NO MORE second- hand books in church Baptistery please!!

Sorry! No more used books to be left in church. Please do not leave any more! A small team is aiming to declutter as there is an acute shortage of storage space.

Editor – April 2024

The **May 2024** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Amy Linton, Overbeck, Seamill Lane, St Bees** who would appreciate contributions not later than **Monday 8 April 2024** please.

Email : amylinton1983@gmail.com

Tel: 01946 447614

St Bees News

March 2024

For two consecutive evenings last month, almost two thousand people queued just outside my front door. The sky, buildings and trees were lit with multi coloured light and mystical music seemed to rise up from the glebe field...the Light Show, "Space, God, the Universe and Everything" was making its presence felt. As I wandered from Priory drive, across the road to St Bees School and back again, chatting with visitors and enjoying the ambience I wondered, has the Priory ever seen anything like this before? Over its more than 900 years of history the Priory has witnessed many changes, the pews that were temporarily moved to make room for the Light Show were installed in Victorian times, not that long ago relatively speaking, and of course electric lights and sound systems are modern additions too. All this considered, the Light Show, brought something I don't think I've ever witnessed before...a truly community event, that brought art, faith, education, local industry and government together in a truly inspirational way.

This year the season of Easter begins on the 31st March and throughout the month of April the book of Acts will be read aloud in church services. This book recounts the events after Jesus resurrection and the activities of the Apostles; Jesus' first followers. Much of the book focuses on what it meant for these first "Christians" to live as a new community of believers. Jesus had instructed them to love one another and they attempted to do this by sharing what they had, giving to those who needed it. Two thousand years later Christians continue to faithfully seek new ways to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches.

The Priory, its hall and grounds have served St Bees parish for over 900 years but despite this, recent events have shown that, there is still the possibility of doing something that has never been done before, how exciting! At our APCM on the 21st April we will look back on the year just past, and give thanks, but we will also start to imagine what the future might hold and how we might get there. We will hear about "Rest under the Stars" an interactive installation visiting from Carlisle Cathedral and a proposed "Festival of Quilting" this summer. We will also begin to explore how we might use our buildings more creatively to serve our community, to become a new "Space to Be" as we look toward a millenia of worship, learning and community gatherings on this site.

Christian communities have been seeking God's will for centuries and the work continues. Recently, congregations have been encouraged to wrestle with scripture and their conscience through prayer and come to a decision as to whether they can support prayers of love and faith for same sex couples. After much consideration and after listening to the views of the congregation, at our most recent meeting, St Bees PCC voted to support the use of the prayers of Living and Love and Faith at the Priory, at the discretion of the Vicar and in line with their commended use. For many this is welcome news, for others this might be seen as a change in doctrine that will be hard to accept. I will support and continue to be a listening ear and friend to everyone, regardless of their position. The Priory continues to be a church for all and all are welcome.

May our community be renewed and grow in love, peace and grace this Easter season, With love from Reverend Becky

Priory News

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party raised an amazing £285 for Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal, which was gratefully received – funding shelter, medication, food and clean water for the war victims suffering in Gaza. Many Thanks to Sally Kennedy, her Soroptimist and Pop-In volunteers with chefs Helen & Mark Kennedy who flipped at least 150 pancakes!

Lent Lunches finished in March and we will inform you in due course of the funds raised for our chosen charities. Many thanks to all our hosts and guests for their support and contributions.

Sincere Thanks to everyone who created such a beautiful and thoughtful service for Mothering Sunday – organiser Deb Lee, the Priory Orchestra, the Church Choir, the Friday Fun children and helpers who shared their songs and prayers, and also handed out the beautiful posies to all the ladies in the congregation, and gentlemen too!

Special thanks go to the posy-making ladies and the gardeners team who donated bunches of daffodils from the Community Walled Garden by the vicarage.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) This will be held within the service at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 21st April this year. Elections of officers and church councillors will take place, and reports of priory organisations and the financial accounts will be presented. Rev Becky Gibbs and the Church Council are keen to encourage new members to join the life, mission and governance of our church.

Secretaries of Priory Organisations are to prepare their annual reports to be printed and displayed on the notice boards in church. PCC Rebecca Rendall will remind you.

Holy Week Walk with the Cross – Please note that this Walk of Witness by the Egremont & District Churches will not be held this year, due to reduced numbers of those attending, and also the increasing problems of road safety on local main roads, especially where no pavements are available.

Polite Notice – To all churchyard visitors and those tending graves – please could all Christmas wreaths and decorations be removed, now that mowing is due to start soon? The wire wreaths and metal hoops can cause damage to the mowers (men and machines). Thank you!

The Story Service with Rev Becky Gibbs is held on the fourth Sunday morning of the month for young families at 9.00 a.m. to 9.45a.m. Next one – Sunday 28th April at the Priory.

Flower Rota for April/ May

7	Easter Flowers	14	Carole Smith
21	Easter – Flower Fund	28	Rosalie McAndrew
5	May Dilys Brownrigg	12	Kay Steele

Grateful Thanks are extended to all on the flower rota for their kind donations and splendid flower arrangements, enhancing the beauty of the Priory church.

Parish Council News

Viberoptix – a representative of Viberoptix came to the Parish Council meeting on 18 March to explain the work which is being carried out in the village to install fibre broadband in St Bees and Rottington. He apologised for the lack of information which had caused confusion when road closure signs appeared in the village a few weeks ago and he promised to provide the parish council with details of plans going forward. As soon we receive the information, we will publicise it on our website and Facebook page. The work will inevitably cause some inconvenience but Viberoptix say that they will minimise the disruption to residents and prolonged road closures should not be necessary. Once the network of fibre optic cables is in place, every household will be offered the opportunity to have a fibre connection into their property but will be under no obligation to take up the offer and can choose to retain their existing connection.

Station Improvements – a number of parking spaces in the upper part of Station car park are still out of use to allow Network Rail's contractors to create a storage compound and provide access to the station as part of the work to raise the height of the platforms. The work is expected to last until 19 April.

Flooding - We understand that design work has been completed for a new drain on the Outrigg to Egremont road which will resolve the flooding problems. The Parish Council will continue to press for the work to be completed as soon as possible so that the road can be re-opened to traffic.

New Interpretation Board – a new interpretation board has been installed near the Priory, the latest to be installed around the village.

Play Area Repairs- the zip wires are currently undergoing repairs and will be back in operation shortly. The Parish Council has approved the quotation for repairs to the dizzy roundabout and this will be reinstated as soon as the spare parts arrive from the manufacturer.

Annual Parish Meeting - the Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of residents in the parish and is held between 1 March and 1 June each year. This year the meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 15 April at 6pm, immediately before the monthly Parish Council meeting. The PC Chairman will be presenting his annual report for 2023/24 and outlining plans for the year ahead. All are welcome to join the meeting and raise any matters which they would like the Parish Council to consider.

Next Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 15 April at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All council meetings are open to the public – why not come along and see the Parish Council at work?

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St Bees School News

Children from three local primary schools were given the chance to get hands on at the independent school's annual science fair, which took place this yesterday (12th March 2024).

The school children were joined by sixth form students and staff from St Bees before taking part in experiments that included; testing for hydrogen gas using the squeaky pop test, looking through microscopes to identify various cells and beetle body parts, and watching their classmates' hair go static when touching the Van de Graaf, as well as Bunsen burner tests.

As always, the fair proved to be a great success with around 150 children attending the event, which aims to encourage a love for science from an earlier age by allowing them to experience the experiments first hand.

Headmaster, Robin Silk commented on the importance of igniting curiosity for science, especially during British Science Week: "At St Bees, we believe in igniting curiosity through science, for it holds the key to unlocking boundless opportunities. "Through events like the Science Fair, we empower young people to explore the extraordinary, equipping them with invaluable skills for a lifetime of discovery. "Science is a great way to get children excited about learning – and here at St Bees – we have a phenomenal science team. "Our commitment to inspiring young minds goes beyond textbooks; it's about showcasing the wonder and relevance of science firsthand – and what better time to do it than during British Science Week!

Times gone by

St Bees Football Club 1994/95 who competed in the Egremont and District Football League, and this their most successful year ever winning the following trophies

Winners of Premier Division, Derek Edgar Trophy, League Cup, Presidents Cup, Summer Cup Cumberland County Cup.

Also a picture of George and the trophies, to his left Dale Jackson, o his right Dougie Park, Jeff Clifford all still living in the village



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St Bees VSA Charity Committee

Spring is in the air, and with it comes the joyous celebration of Easter. This Easter, the VSA, is excited to invite the entire community to join us for our fun-filled Easter Fair and St Bees Village Easter Trail.

Starting off the festivities is our Easter Fair, on Friday 29th March, in the Village School hall, 1.00p.m. to 3.30p.m. There will be crafts, games, egg hunt, lucky dip, raffle, refreshments, and fun photobooth. As well as inviting the children, their friends and families, we'd like to welcome the wider community; it'll be a great afternoon out, and a fun start to the children's Easter holidays.

Also, from the 29th March, right through the 2 week Easter holiday, we'll be running the St Bees Village Easter Trail. Local residents have been invited to participate by decorating their gardens and windows with delightful, vibrant Easter themed displays. It's a delightful way to celebrate the season and discover the creativity of our community. Trail maps will be available to purchase, more info to follow (check Facebook).

Other dates for your diary:

Spring Pre-Loved sale: Children's clothing, shoes, uniform, toys and books. Friday 19th April, 2.30p.m. to 4.00p.m. Donations welcomed in school from Tuesday 16th April.

Bees Bash: Saturday 29th June, St Bees School.

And finally, a big thank you to our donors and supporters for our World Book Day fancy dress sale. We've raised a fabulous £40 to go towards the new playground equipment for the school.

For more information and updates, follow us @stbeesvsa (Facebook/Instagram).

Jamie Lowrey

WI News

Thank you for attending our AGM, we looked back at the year 2023, and ahead to some events planned for 2024. The current Committee members decided they would be happy to go on in their present roles for another year. Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of St Bees WI. We had an excellent Quiz by Quiz Master Jon Mellor; the teams were the 'Easter Bunnies' and the 'Mad March Hares'. After 90 questions including a picture round, the 'Mad March Hares', were triumphant. Congratulations to them.

Our next meeting on April 8th will see a change of venue: we are set to hold a bring and share buffet in Hodgetts Village Hall, Finkle Street, 7.30p.m. start. All welcome, please bring with you something savoury or sweet to be shared with all our members.

Refreshments will be provided, plus raffle. Hope you can all join us. Please remember WI Annual Subscriptions are due this month.

Further details on our Facebook page www.St-Bees-WI-facebook or from any WI Member.

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Christian Aid

What do you know about Burundi? Yes, it is in Africa, lying in the Great Lakes region. Its central area averages twice the height of Scafell! Its South west border dips towards Lake Tanganyika, the second deepest in the world. It is this, less fertile area that is badly affected by climate change. To the north is the infamous Rwanda. There are 3 main tribes, the Hutus, Tutsis and Batwa (the pigmy race).

Burundi is the poorest country in the world, most of the land being used for subsistence farming and grazing. More than 70% of the population go hungry. 41% of the population is under 5yrs old. Although 98% of children attend primary school only 22% attend secondary school and many girls are married before they reach 18years. Burundi is mainly a Christian country that is strongly patriarchal.

Why I am telling you all this?

Christian Aid Week 12-18th May is focusing on Aline who lives in the challenging south of Burundi. She had her first child at the age of 14. Her husband was abusive and, when he wanted to marry again, threw her out, keeping her 5 children. As Aline wandered and wondered how she could survive, she said "People forgot I was a human being, it filled me with sorrow". Then she came across a 3 day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid. Aline was transformed by this, endowed with skills and knowledge and with a sense of hope and worth restored.

With all she had learnt and a small loan Aline started up a small business. As it grew she bought a bicycle that increased her reach. She baked bricks to build herself a house. With this she was able to get her oldest 3 children back, who had been mistreated by their father (she was unable to locate her youngest 2). She bought solar panels so the children could do their homework in the evenings.

Burundi remains a difficult place to live, a ferocious storm (common now because of climate change) destroyed her house, she was able to sell her cow in order to recover, she had options.

70k in May! Aline's long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty began with a little support from Christian Aid. **But Christian aid needs you!** Just £5 could support a savings group and £10 contribute to the type of training offered to Aline. Kelvin and I (please feel free to join us) will cycle 70km on Saturday May 18th. **What will you do?**

We don't do house to house collections any more but You can donate and find out more at: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503>

Or <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/st-bees-priory-christian-aid-week-2024>.

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News from the Village School

We had a wonderful first half term in school and Spring is finally in the air; we are all looking forward to spending more time outdoors and watching the wonder of nature unfold within the school grounds.

Last month we welcomed our Academy Board (governors) into school for the day. They spent time in classrooms, talking to children and staff and meeting with myself. I am proud to say that they observed our younger pupils engaging well in phonics lessons, children enjoying maths lessons in YR, Y1 and Y4 and heard pupils from Y2 and Y6 talking enthusiastically about their Geography and History learning. Year 5 and 6 also enjoyed a fabulous session at St Bees School to promote Science Week.

On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated World Book Day. The whole school completed activities linked to our whole school book 'What did the tree see?' by Charlotte Guillain. We were able to celebrate and explore fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. In assembly, children were able to explain the importance of books and suggested many interesting places where reading can take place. Many children chose to dress up as their favourite book character, with others opting for comfort in their pyjamas. Year 6 explored the history of their local area, whilst Year 2 took their reading outside and listened to the sounds of nature. Year 3 and Year 5 teamed together to create stories for each other, which were then shared at the end of the day.

A visit to the St Bees School Science Fair left Y5 & 6 in awe as they explored the fascinating world of scientific experiments. Pupils were captivated by mixing acid and metal strips to make loud popping noises; furthering their knowledge of chemical reactions. They also had a go at burning various substances to see how fireworks get their colours and sparkles. One of the most enthralling activities was when they interacted with a Van De Graaff generator which made their hair stand on end! A wonderful way to encourage interest in Science and spark the children's interest. Many thanks to St Bees School: it was a fabulous session.

We have a vacancy for the Clerk to our governing body. Applicants need the ability to take accurate minutes, be IT literate, possess good record keeping and organisational skills. This is a paid role. Anyone interested in applying for this role please contact the school either direct or via our website www.stbeesvillage.cumbria.sch.uk Training will be provided to governors free of charge as an ongoing entitlement.

Thank you for your support.

Kate Davis, Headteacher

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

De-Cluttering

I've noticed recently that reaching my mid-nineties comes with certain downsides. One is that for some folk, other people's years and clutter just don't sit well together. Now I've been an inveterate clutterer all my life, and what other people see as my rubbish can be very much like treasure to me. Particularly, if it's written.

Sometimes lately I've wondered whether my choirboy years gave me much of value. Would I have found music more inspiring if there had been someone in my life like Frances Livesey, our Priory Choirmaster? He took great pains to introduce serious music to promising choirboys. There were visits, for example, to Edinburgh, especially when Sir Henry Wood ('Timber Wood' to the boys) was guest conductor at the Queen's Hall. Or Livesey might take them to hear works he intended to play later himself on our St. Bees organ. For the fiftieth anniversary of composer Wagner's death he made his boys familiar with the Tannhauser passages he would be including in his next Priory concert.

Clearly being a St. Bees chorister was not something to be taken lightly. The weeknight Practices in Mr. Livesey's lodging in Flatt Walk, were not to be missed. There were occasional Choir Outings, not necessarily centred on music. On a lighter note, would-be choirboys were subjected to the traditional ordeal of 'bushing', which entailed being dragged through prickly bushes growing in the graveyard. A more useful diversion occurred whenever the organ's pumping system failed, when older boys would tend the stand-by gear, thus being able to sit outside in the sun until the sermon was over.

We are told of another sermon-time diversion, marbles. A few would be taken into the choir-stalls, where with cassocks pressed down between their legs, the boys would see how they could best manoeuvre them. Inevitably the odd marble escaped, to bounce its noisy way down the chancel steps while the Vicar preached. Retribution would follow, usually a sharp tap on the offender's head as Mr. T.E.G Marley wielded a handy Bible.

How is it that all these years later we can know so much of a choirboy's life? It is fortuitous that a few weeks ago I noticed that an unknown de-clutterer had been at my desk. For there in my waste bin was a handful of scribbled notes – summarising what I had learned earlier from a then-ancient member of a long-ago Choir.

Bob Jopling

Pollinator Art and Craft Display:

A date for your diary! On Sunday 19th May, the day before World Bee Day, we are running a free pollinator art and craft display in New College Hall from 1.30 to 4.30p.m. Items by local children and local artists will be on display. There will also be a craft activity to join in and Cumbria Wildlife Trust will be there to answer all your questions about pollinators. We look forward to seeing you!

Friends of the Priory March Report

An Illustrated Talk will be given by Chris Robson on 'Adventure & Survival in the Congo' - a personal account! To be held on Friday 19th April at 7.30p.m, in New College Hall.

The Concert by Egremont Town Band for the Friends will be held on Friday 17th May at 7.00p.m. in the Priory. Refreshments served. All welcome.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 May at 7.00p.m. in NCH; and the Friends AGM will be on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.00p.m. in NCH.

Many thanks to Gary McKee for his inspiring 'Marathon Man' Talk, to Chris Robson for organising the event, to St Bees School for their hospitality, and to all who attended and raised £170, to be shared between the Friends and Hospice at Home.

St Bees RNLI

Saturday 9th March marked forty years of volunteering for St Bees RNLI Helms Alastair Graham and Ian Wrigley. Their anniversary came just five days after Ian and Alastair attended the RNLI's 200th anniversary at Westminster Abbey.

Although Alastair and Ian both officially started on 9th March 1984, back then they would have been attending training sessions at the lifeboat station for up to a year on probation before being allowed to sign up. Ian's father Jim was on the early lifeboat and his mum Christine has spent many years fundraising with the St Bees RNLI Guild. Ian was therefore keen to follow their example and volunteer for the RNLI. Alastair like Ian grew up in St Bees and knew many of the lifeboat crew before joining. In 1993 Alastair was accorded the Thanks of the Institution inscribed on Vellum for his outstanding skill and courage. As Helm he was in charge of the lifeboat that rescued two crew from a fishing vessel stranded on an isolated outcrop of rocks near Fleswick Bay in a Force 6 Strong Breeze and breaking seas. Inspired by his dad, Alastair's son Simon later joined the crew.

Both Alastair and Ian have been more than just Helms. They have been involved with new recruits showing them the ropes and keeping them safe during their first few trips at sea. Alastair has used his occupational skills to help with a lot of the first aid training. Ian and Alastair are also trained launch vehicle drivers. This means they are qualified to drive the specially designed tractor deep into the Irish Sea to launch the lifeboat. Dick Beddows, St Bees RNLI Operations manager, said 'It has been an honour to volunteer alongside Alastair and Ian. Their contribution to St Bees RNLI over the last forty years is an example and inspiration to all our volunteers. Like the rest of our crew, I hope to see them at our station for many years to come.

Colin Wadey



Local Author Launches Children's Action & Adventure Book,

Drawing Inspiration from St Bees and Fleswick Bay, with Unmissable Event Planned at St Bees Priory St Bees, Cumbria:

Local author, Helen Sharpe, is thrilled to announce the launch of her debut young readers novel, "Captain Black Heart & The Ghosts of Sea Cove Bay," a captivating tale woven from the real-life adventures of her sons and infused with a touch of pirate magic.

Published on February 23rd, the book is already available online at Amazon, Waterstones, and other major retailers with over 100 copies sold already. "Captain Black Heart & The Ghosts of Sea Cove Bay" takes young readers on a thrilling journey along the stunning coastline of St Bees and Fleswick Bay, where siblings embark on a series of exciting quests inspired by local folklore and history, all with a dash of pirate spirit.

To celebrate the book's launch, Helen Sharpe will be hosting a special event on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, at the St Bees Priory from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. The event will feature:

- Talks and story telling by the author, offering insights into the book's creation and local inspiration.
- Fun and interactive activities for children, designed to spark their imaginations and bring the book's world to life.
- Refreshments and celebratory treats for all attendees.
- Book Signings and Goodie bags.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for families to meet the author, learn more about the book's inspiration, upcoming books and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon celebrating the magic of storytelling in the heart of St Bees.

"A fun read, thrilling and fast paced, a story spanning generations, beautifully told. The language is apt and has good characterisation. A real reading pleasure!" - White Magic Studios (Publisher).

"Sam didn't know whether he had a special gift or not. He didn't know whether the spirits of those yet to find their rest could really speak to him to get his help. All he knew was that he had helped lay his great, great Grandad to rest and that was enough for now." - Quote From Book by Helen Sharpe.

Website link : <https://sharpebooks.co.uk/>

About Helen Sharpe: Helen Sharpe is a passionate writer and mother of two sons and two step daughters, who grew up in the beautiful coastal town of St Bees. Inspired by the adventures of her sons and the rich history of her surroundings, she has poured her love for storytelling into her debut young teens novel, "The Ghosts of Sea Cove Bay".

Contact: For further information please contact: Helen Sharpe
hsharpe600@btinternet.com 07813590249

Grassroots

Over 60s On April 2nd in Hodgetts club at 2.00p.m., we are holding an Easter bonnet competition, and hats and equipment will be provided. A trip to Hayes Garden Centre has been arranged for April 16th, and the bus leaves The Odd Fellows at 10a.m., with the usual pick ups. This trip is open to non members .If you would like a place on the bus please contact Gill Richardson, 07890195727

Sandwith School Trust

The Trust is currently and continuing to experience administrative difficulties with the Bank. This has resulted in a delay in being able to provide cheques to successful applicants for awards. This is in the process of being resolved, but nevertheless frustrating. Please be assured that the problem is not financial and awards will be honoured and payments made in due course. The Trustees apologise for this and hope it will not deter future applications. G.Gilmour, Secretary to the Trust.

St Bees Green Future

Dental item recycling: You can continue to drop off dental items for recycling in the tub outside 61 Main Street, but following a change of sponsor, we can only collect the following: plastic toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads and flosser nozzles, flossing sticks and interdental brushes and plastic containers from dental floss.

We can no longer collect toothpaste tubes or any cardboard or plastic packaging from dental items. However, you can recycle your toothpaste tubes via the scheme in store at Boots and earn Advantage Card points by doing so: www.boots.com/shopping/boots-recycling-scheme

Medicine blister packs: A polite reminder that we can no longer collect medicine blister packs in bulk for recycling. Superdrug at Carlisle will continue to take medicine blister packs from individuals for recycling. Boots has trialled a similar scheme in some of its stores and has plans to roll this out to more stores next year, so we may then have a closer drop off point.

From the Priory Registers

Holy Baptism

18 February Elijah James Merton Smith

Hemel Hempstead

3 March Havier Orson Hogg

Ellerbeck Barns, Egremont Road

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

Nearly 2,000 people witness St Bees Priory Light Show

MORE than 1,800 people attended last month's 'Light District' event held at St Bees Priory. The show was organised by Cumberland Council and was held on the 14th and 15th March. Named 'Space: God, The Universe and Everything', the sound and light show was produced by Luxmuralis and On Cue Productions. The St Bees event was organised with the support of St Bees School, St Bees Parish Council, and Sellafeld Ltd.

A spokesperson from St Bees Parish Council said: "Many thanks to Cumberland Council who managed it. Also to the volunteers from the village who helped out, and St Bees School for use of their facilities. It was good to see something of this quality coming west in the county which was facilitated by Cumbria Tourism partnering with the Parish Council and the Priory. The audio-visual effects beautifully complemented the 900-year-old medieval building. We hope people enjoyed it."

Cumberland Council's destination management team, supported by funding from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is working in partnership with Luxmuralis to showcase the Light District events programme at different locations within the Cumberland area.

Councillor Anne Quilter, Cumberland Council's executive member for Vibrant and Healthy Places, said: "Following the success of Carlisle City of Lights, more areas within Cumberland will form part of a series of events called The Light District. We have so far held two successful events - Carlisle and St Bees - and will build on the programme for the benefit of all our communities. We want to showcase our amazing area and venues. Cumberland is the place to be for events."

Peter Walker, sculptor and artist at Luxmuralis added: "We are delighted to be working with Historic Royal Palaces and Discover Carlisle on this spectacular light show, which will transform some of the UK's most remarkable buildings into an articulating and evolving display of historic images, awash with light and accompanied by compositions which chart changes to music over the period." (*Whitehaven News, March 24*)

Huge thanks to S Bees Parish Council, St Bees School and volunteers from across the parish for your support. A great team effort! Rev Becky.

Speak Boldly

We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways.

The last Friday of every month sees about twelve children and a few adults having great fun in the Priory! To the untrained eye, it may look chaotic and disorganised but that is how children learn. As well as having fun they are discovering their identity and place in the world. They have a chance to explore behaviour and choices to help distinguish good from evil and most importantly learn that they are a unique, special and loved child of God.



In March: come along at the earlier time of 3.30pm (families welcome too) then join us for Good Friday service at 5.15pm

In April: we will explore life in Burundi

In May: reflect on water in the Bible

In June: find out why Daniel was in the Lion's den but did not get eaten!

In July: have some sports fun

August is slightly different as we will again have a **Family Fun Saturday afternoon** (2pm-5pm) to explore our amazing planet. The older children will still meet on the Friday to make cakes for the Saturday.

Come along 4.30pm-6pm if you are 5-teen



Follow Daily **KIDS' CORNER**

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



Acts 4:32-35

After Jesus had risen and returned to heaven, his followers found new ways of living as community.



The rich shared what they had, and the apostles gave it to those who needed it.



Draw how you might help this person.



Help the children share their sweets. How many should they have each? **ANSWER:** _____ each.



Use the words in the bubble to help you write a prayer for those in need.

**sad, lonely, homeless
worried, hungry, lost, angry**