

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

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305

St Bees News

December 2024 - January 2025



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.	Garden Society	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 07742 440919). Flower Show is held on 3rd Saturday in August.
Aikido club.	Adult martial art classes in St Bees, Mon., Tues. & Thu each week. See www.westcumbriaaikido or contact Adrian on 07951 999 192.	History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from 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.	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.
Scouts, Beavers	1st Beckermet & 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.	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.
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	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.
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Churchwardens are Deb Lee & Gill Barlow (& 2 Vacancies)	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.
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel -07840 844424	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.
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	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
Fair Trade	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com	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.
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.	Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
First Responders	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497	St Bees Triers	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
Football Association	Contacts - Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.	Village School Association	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 07897 535100 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk .	Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
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,	Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
		Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
		Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. See www.St-Bees WI Facebook pages or contact any member.

Calendar for December 2024 - January 2025

December 2024

1	Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Advent Carol Service
7	Saturday	9.00 a.m. – noon	Priory Christmas Tree Festival - Set-up
		2.00 p.m.	WI Carol Service, St Mary's & St Michael's Egremont
8	Sunday until 2 January 2025		Priory Christmas Tree Festival
		2.00-5.00p.m.	Priory Christmas Fair, Old College Hall
9	Monday	7.00 p.m.	WI Christmas Meal, Chase Hotel
10	Tuesday	12.30 p.m.	Over 60s Christmas Dinner, Seacote Hotel
		3.00-6.00 p.m.	St Bees School Christmas Fayre
		7.30 p.m.	Celtish Duo Folk Concert, Priory
12	Thursday	10.30am – noon	Home Energy Advice Session, New College Hall
13	Friday	7.00 p.m.	West Cumberland Choral Society Concert, Priory
14	Saturday	5.00 p.m.	Village Orchestra Concert, Priory
17	Tuesday	2.00 p.m.	Over 60s, Hodgetts
22	Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
24	Christmas Eve	3.30 p.m.	Christingle Service
		11.30 p.m.	Midnight Communion
25	Christmas Day	10.00 a.m.	Communion

January 2025

8	Wednesday		Magazine Copy Date
13	Monday	7.30 p.m.	W I Meeting, Seacote Hotel

No Evening Prayer services in December/January to avoid dark nights!

Editor – February 2024

The **February 2025** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jack Hale, Abbey House, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Wednesday 8 January 2025** please.

Email: jack.hale@newcastle.ac.uk

Tel: 01946 822409

St Bees News

Silent night, Holy Night,

The vicar's wondering what to write...
Her deadline's near, her mind is blank,
This rhyme is rubbish, let's be frank.

All is calm, all is bright,

The vicar quakes at the sight...
Of a page, with nothing on,
No inspiration, all hope is gone.

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,

Round yon vicar, paper is piled.
Discarded ideas, to do lists and mess,
She's under pressure and feeling the stress.

Holy Infant so tender and mild,

It's the season of peace, she mustn't get riled.

Remember to breathe, be, and pray,
Pause during Advent, at the end of the day...

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!

Times are tough, money's tight.
People are fleeing from violence and war,
Heating costs rise, mortgages soar.

Shepherds quake at the sight,

Of their bills, as taxes bite.

Where is the joy when life is unfair?

Does anyone see, does anyone care?

Glories stream from heaven afar,

There's no pain in heaven, where sin cannot mar;

May God's goodness and glory,

Come to earth, tell God's story.

Christ the Saviour is born!

Christ the Saviour is born!

December - 2024 January 2025

Silent night! Holy night!

Jesus is born to make things right.
Joy can be found, in the mess and the manger,

If we forgive our brother and care for the stranger.

Son of God, love's pure light,

May we see Your footprints, the giant and slight;

In church, and parish, and on the beach,
We welcome the visitor and the BFG!*

Radiant beams from Thy holy face,

This Advent and Christmas let us make space;

Vicars, and giants, shepherds and all,

To silently listen, take heed of God's call.

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

The vicar takes note and slows down the pace.

God's son born at Christmas, our Saviour is near,

To do lists can wait, something better is here.

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

*a reference to the Sainsbury Christmas food advert, featuring the BFG and St Bees!

With love from Reverend Becky



Priory News

Advent Carol Service – will be on Sunday 1st December at 4.00 p.m. Refreshments too.

Christmas Celebrations at the Priory

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - will be held on Sunday 22 December at 4.00 p.m.

Mulled wine & mince pies will be served afterwards. All most welcome!

Please contact Sally Kennedy, Gill Burgess or Claire Hale and Cath Lightfoot if you can provide mince pies or chocolate brownies/crispies or shortbread. Thankyou!

The Christingle Service will be held on Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December at 3.30 p.m.

Please check notices or priory facebook for details. Volunteers creating the Christingles will meet on Monday 23 December – see Rev Becky for information.

Note – Retiring Collection in aid of the Children’s Society

Christmas Eve Services 24 Tuesday December

Christingle - 3.30 p.m.

Midnight Communion - 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Communion at 10.00 a.m. on 25 December. Note earlier time.

What’s On at the Priory in December

Christmas Concert by West Cumberland Choral Society – Friday 13th December at 7.00 p.m. Tickets available at the door – Adults £10, Students £5, U.18s free. With Conductor Margie Simper and accompanist Frank Bowler. Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome!

The St Bees Primary School choir will be performing.

Then in Handel’s Messiah part 1 our sopranos and altos will be joined by a group of guest basses and tenors.

Christmas Tree Festival Service with Village Orchestra – Sunday 8 December at 10.30 a.m.

when we celebrate the wonderful occasion of all our decorated trees filling the Priory with light and beauty, during the month of December, and give thanks for our community organisations, village societies and family groups.

Village Orchestra Christmas Concert with conductor Ali Birchall will perform on Saturday 14 December at 5.00 p.m. All welcome to come and enjoy their new repertoire.

Celtish Duo Folk Concert will be presented on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30 p.m.

Christian folk music performed by Nigel Cameron and Julie Cameron-Hall on their national tour – an inspirational delight!

Parish Council

New Parish Councillor – We are pleased to welcome John Benedicic to the Parish Council. John has been co-opted to fill one of the vacancies unfilled at the last election. There are still two seats remaining unfilled – if you are Interested, please contact the Clerk or any parish councillor.

Remembrance Sunday- The usual parade and wreath laying ceremony took place on Sunday 10 November to mark Remembrance Sunday. The wreaths from the local organisations were on display in the window of 22 Main Street in the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday. The parade was very well attended by local people with representatives of a number of organisations laying wreaths at the war memorial.

Santa Parade-By the time this edition is published, Santa will have visited the village on 26 November to switch on the lights on the village Christmas tree. We are grateful to all the volunteers who have helped to make the event possible, from those who put up the tree to the cycling elves and those who prepared and pulled the sleigh and, of course, Santa himself!

TV Fame- This year’s Sainsbury’s Christmas advert includes scenes of the BFG visiting the beach at St Bees. The village will also feature in an episode of Villages by the Sea with archaeologist Ben Robinson due to be screened in the coming weeks on BBC 2.

Donations to local groups – The Parish Council received a number of requests from local groups for donations this year. At the November meeting the Parish Council agreed the following donations, giving priority to activities for children & young people and those who have not previously received a donation :

- Junior football club £250 -towards the cost of new goals
- Beckermat/St Bees Scout Group £150 – towards training costs for volunteer leader
- Cumbria Rungwe Link £100 – towards costs of hosting visit by group from Tanzania
- Over 60s £75 – towards costs of Christmas lunch
- Friends of Priory Paddock £100 – to set up a bank account to enable grant applications to be made
- Pagan Trust £100 – to take out Trustee Indemnity Insurance to help with finding new Trustees
- Friends of the Priory £50
- Furness Line Action Group £50
- The Parish Council also agreed to continue to support the publication costs of the parish magazine as well as to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Next meeting- The next meeting will be on Monday 16 December at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. The January meeting will take place on 20 January 2025

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St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 8th December 2024 - Thursday 2nd January 2025

Thank you so much to everyone who has entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival - the Priory is going to look truly spectacular throughout the festive period! Here are just a few reminders for set up day on Saturday 7th December and also for those wishing to visit during the following weeks:

- Arrival on set up day is any time between 9.00 a.m.-12 noon. Please remember a stand for your tree and £10 cash for your entry fee. You will be given an area to place your tree along with an entry number to display alongside it.
- Visitors are warmly encouraged to visit church during the festival period from Sunday 8th December - Thursday 2nd January. Please vote for your favourite tree using the voting box which will be located at the back of church; the winning tree will receive £50 as their prize and this will be announced in church at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 2nd January.
- For those visiting the Tree Festival, if you would like to make a donation, there will be envelopes next to the voting box. Simply put your donation in the envelope, label the envelope: "Tree Festival donation" and pop your envelope in the wooden donation box attached to the pillar at the back of church on the right hand side. All proceeds from entry fees and visitor's donations will be shared between St Bees RNLI and the Priory.
- Opening hours for visiting the Tree Festival are: Monday-Saturday 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. and Sunday 12.30p.m. - 5.00p.m.

Please contact Sarah George via email at: sarahgeorge.bees@gmail.com or by message or phone on: 07793754803 if you have any further queries.

From the Priory Registers

Christian Funeral

29 October Myra Elizabeth Hill (nee Biglands) Whitehaven

22 November Elizabeeth Cotes Cockermouth & St Bees

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

Priory Flower Rota for December/January

December Advent – No Flowers 25 - Christmas - Pat Crichton

January 5 Flower Fund 12 The Bragg Family

19 Mary McGee 26 Eleanor Crichton

Season's Greetings & Good Wishes for 2025 to all on the weekly flower rota and thanks for the many generous donations this year. Much appreciated.

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Village School

It was a pleasure to welcome the children back to school in November following the half term break. We have had a very busy time on the run up to Christmas, including some fundraising events to support school and charity.

Children In Need

To show our support, children came to come in non-uniform, all donations went to this very worthy cause.

Anti-bullying Week 2024: Tuesday 12th November

We all took part in the Odd Socks Day in support of Anit-bullying Week. Children came to school wearing odd socks or colourful tights, to celebrate everyone being unique. We focused on bullying in our PSHE lessons throughout the week, as well as having an assembly.

Remembrance Day: Monday 11th November

For Remembrance Day, Y6 joined St Bees School to represent us at a service at the war memorial. The rest of the school held a special assembly.

20th Dec: 1:30pm finish for Christmas holidays

8th Jan: first day of Spring Term

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you a peaceful Christmas.

Kate Davis, Headteacher

Village School Association News

Busy times for the VSA!

In recent weeks, since the St Bees Village Scarecrow Trail (what a lovely weekend!), the VSA have been busy with quite a few behind the scenes bits and bobs, organising and promoting various fundraisers and getting treats ready for the kids.

We ran another successful Preloved School Uniform sale and continued with the school Christmas cards and gifts sale, items designed by the children themselves (they were so proud and excited about this project!). We've had Helen's Herbs help with the creation of glorious Christmas Wreaths just in time for December, and have finally surprised the kids with colourful, fun playground games, which we knew would be a hit.

We're currently working on some seasonal treats for the children, details TBC, but we know it'll be something they'll enjoy, making lasting school memories.

We've really enjoyed this year, and with the support of our new class reps (parents and children), we're hoping 2025 will be even better!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @stbeesvsa. We keep it updated with school information, VSA news and local events for the kids, days out, etc. It's becoming quite a useful page for local parents and carers!

Thanks again for all your support this year. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Jaime Lowrey, VSA Chair stbees.vsa@gmail.com @stbeesvsa Facebook/Instagram

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Priory Singers

Final Chairman's Report

The Priory Singers were founded, if my information is correct, some forty or so years ago as an evening class running at Wyndham School in Egremont, led by Hugh Turpin. It then continued to meet in the Old College Hall every week with a full turnout of some 25-30 people including a good complement of all four voices.

The range of music enjoyed was quite considerable, with Hugh Turpin's own compositions featuring on the programme: who does not remember his Catullus songs?

The Christmas programme of music and readings in the Priory was a fixed point each December: Tom Rice was heard to say that Christmas could not really start until our concert had taken place. Until recently there was an annual Choral Evensong performed in the summer for the Friends of the Priory.

People who had heard us then invited us to sing at their own celebrations - many weddings featured both the Singers and compositions by Hugh. We have also sung our farewells to members of the Singers who had passed away.

We have joined in larger groups to perform concerts, for example the recent performance of Fauré's Requiem.

Latterly, when Hugh became ill, Frank Bowler very kindly took over as musical director and enabled us to sing standards and lighter items.

In recent times, however, we have lost many friends, some who have moved away and others who have passed away, and so the Priory Singers have become unviable.

I am sure that I speak for all of us when I say that I will take away many happy memories of music shared in a friendly and collaborative atmosphere, and my life has been enriched by the variety of music which I have enjoyed.

Our thanks are due to Hugh, Frank, and everyone who has taken part.

Anthony C. Payne, 30.09.2024

Multicharity thanks

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended the Multi Charity sale, ensuring that not only the recipients of your gifts but countless others, benefit from your Christmas shopping. A total of £2,110 was taken on the day, so a huge thank you for your generosity. Please spread the word to encourage more folk to come next year!

Amnesty International:	£85	Cancer Care cards by Judy	£35
Fair trade and Oxfam	£1600	Hospice at Home	£60
Royal British Legion	£15	RNLI	awaited
RSPB	£77	Rungwe	£57
Rungwe raffle tickets	£70	Save the Children	£81
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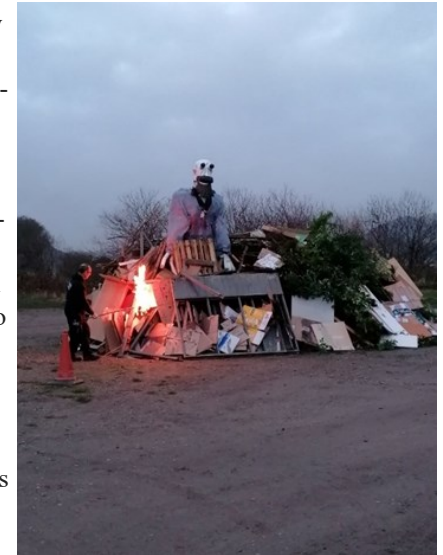


St Bees School

St Bees School plays a pivotal role in enriching the local community with events that celebrate tradition. This November, the village was abuzz with activities that brought residents together in a display of camaraderie and respect.

On Friday, the 8th of November, the community gathered for the much-anticipated giant bonfire on Wood Lane, a highlight in the village's calendar. This year, the spectacle was adorned with a fantastic Guy perched atop—a puppet that once starred as Charles

Dickens in the school's celebrated show, "Book-hemian Rhapsody." The bonfire lit up the night sky, its flames dancing to the delight of children and adults alike, it was thoughtfully organised to be dog friendly too opting for a firework free evening. Julie our Catering Manager put on some fireside delights of hotdogs, homemade soup and gingerbread as well as hot and cold drinks. The event was a testament to the village's spirit as we saw an incredible turn out for this timeless tradition of Bonfire Night.



Just a few days later, on the 11th of November, the community gathered once more at the school for a solemn Remembrance Day service, held this year at the school War Memorial and luckily the weather was beautiful. The event was marked by heartfelt readings from Mr. Keep and the school Prefects, Charlotte, Suproto, and Philippe. Their words resonated deeply with the audience, serving as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many. The service reached a moving crescendo as Mr. Beach played the Last Post and Philippe laid a wreath on the memorial. The feedback we've had was that it was lovely tribute touching the hearts of all present.

These events, cherished by villagers and visitors alike, underscore the integral role of St Bees School in fostering a sense of community and continuity. Through tradition, and remembrance, the school continues to weave its rich tapestry into the vibrant life of St Bees. Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming traditional festive events at St Bees School. We're gearing up for a Christmas Fair at the start of December. Please get in touch if you'd like to be a stall holder! This will then follow later in the month with our heartwarming Christmas Carol Concert on Thursday the 12th December. Finally - don't miss out as we see in the Year of the Snake with our vibrant Chinese New Year celebration on the 29th of January. A lot to celebrate – and a lot to look forward to! We can't wait to welcome you.

Grassroots & Cuttings

St Bees Village Hall – a Community resource.

St Bees Village Hall Management Group (Charity Number 1059041) is the group of volunteers, who manage and look after St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts Hall). We hire out space in the hall to various community groups and residents and some groups outside the village . We organise fund raising events to help provide money for the maintenance of the hall and running expenses. We apply for grants for specific projects which will improve and sustain the fabric of the building and provide a clean, comfortable, and safe environment for those who use the hall. Many of you will have used the hall at some time for at least one event and some of you will be regular attenders.

The management committee are always trying to engage with the community to get new ideas for events and activities that could be held in the hall. So, if you have some ideas – or if you would like to give us some feedback on the events we run, so that we can improve them, then please let us know. Your feedback is welcome

Responses to Claire Hale (chale025@gmail.com)

St Bees School Christmas Fayre

It's almost time for the Christmas Fayre again– this year it will run from 3pm-6pm on Tuesday 10th December. If anyone wants to rent a stall at the event it is £10 per table (local producers, artisans etc) can you let me know by Friday 22nd November at konrad.hansen@stbeesschool.co.uk ?

Thanks, Konrad

Over 60s

On Tuesday December 10th we are having our Christmas dinner at the Seacote Hotel, 12 30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. Mr Neil Bettinson will be joining us on Tuesday December 17th, 2.00 p.m. in Hodgetts club, for carols and mince pies. This is our last meeting until the end of February. We wish all our members a happy Christmas, keep safe and well.

Village Orchestra Christmas Concert

The orchestra with its conductor Ali Birchall will perform on Saturday 14 December at 5.00 p.m. at the Priory. All welcome to come and enjoy their new repertoire.

Celtish Duo Folk Concert

The Priory on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30 p.m.

Christian folk music performed by Nigel Cameron and Julie Cameron-Hall on their national tour – an inspirational delight!

Calendars for sale at the Priory

Donald Brownrigg's calendars are on sale @ £10 at the Priory. Please put money oin wooden box pillar near publicity desk.

Christmas Concert by West Cumberland Choral Society

Friday 13th December at 7.00 p.m. Tickets available at the door – Adults £10, Students £5, U.18s free. With Conductor Margie Simper and accompanist Frank Bowler. Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome!

The St Bees Primary School choir will be performing.

Then in Handel's Messiah part 1 our sopranos and altos will be joined by a group of guest basses and tenors.

Local Artists' Exhibition

The annual exhibition took place in the Railway Museum during half-term week and was well attended. There were nearly a dozen participants showing off a variety of skilful creations, including a couple of new people. Although free to enter, a collection was taken to help Ukrainians maimed in the invasion by Russia, with £93 being raised. As usual, there was a "Best in Show" category where everyone could vote for the item they thought was the best - pleasingly, every contributor received at least one vote but the outright winner was Chris Robson's view of St Bees beach, which won the bottle of wine.

The Sandwith School Trust

The Trust exists to support students in the Parish of Sandwith and Rottington in furtherance of their education. The Trustees will be meeting again during March 2025 to consider Grant / Award applications by those students who qualify by virtue of their residence. Applications should be made prior to the beginning of March '25.

Forms can be obtained from and returned to enquiries@stbeespriory.co.uk

Lunga's Apple

Hello, Lunga here.

Well, there it was - A lovely BIG red apple sitting on the grass not far from the caravan. Mammy said it was the sort people get in their Christmas stocking. I was glad it wasn't in a stocking as I need to tear that off first. I sat down. I pretended to tuck my napkin into my collar and lay out my knife and fork. I licked it, turning it over, to thank whoever put it there. Mammy said someone must have accidentally dropped it out of their lunch. Silly them! But now it was MINE. I began to eat it, savouring each mouthful. It was SO good - Yum Yum. Mammy had to wait until I had finished. That was quite a while as it was VERY big. So, if you get an apple in your stocking this Christmas, I hope it is as good as mine was.

Bye for now. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from

Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers

St Bees Priory Christmas Fair- Sunday 8th December 2024

Come along to the Priory Christmas Fair on Sunday 8th December which is running from 2-5 pm; entry is free and here is what will be waiting for you:

- In Church- a first look at all the fabulous trees (vote for your favourite tree and leave a donation if you are able). Get in the festive spirit with Egremont Town Band who will be serenading us with carols and enjoy some delicious refreshments!
- In Old College Hall - visit the craft and gift stalls and pick up some unique Christmas gifts! Enter the raffle to be in with a chance of winning some amazing prizes!

Please note that some stall holders will accept card payments but others will be cash only so please bring plenty with you!

Refreshments will be cash only.

All proceeds from this event (excluding craft stall holders) will be shared between St Bees RNLI and St Bees Priory.

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

St Bees Parish Council Bus Survey

The Parish Council's environmental project questionnaire showed significant interest in a bus route through the parish. While we can't guarantee that it will be possible to deliver this, we would like to understand more about why residents want to travel by bus and about these possible journeys to provide evidence for a bus route through the parish. We have developed a survey to gather this information, which will run until 20th January.

You can complete the survey here: <https://shorturl.at/jZ4Gs>

Or scan the QR code:

If you don't have internet access, paper copies are also available from St Bees Post Office.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.



St Bees WI News

I Hope you all enjoyed our November evening with Alvina Quayle, Festive Flower arranging, well done to those who won a festive arrangement to take home!

Our December event, will be our Christmas Meal, this year we are at the Chase Hotel in Whitehaven, Monday December 9th 7pm for 7.30pm start, Wine and soft drinks provided by the WI. We are doing Santas Sack so please bring a wrapped gift for a WI Friend. St Bees WI 2025 Calendar will be handed out this evening.

St Bees Christmas Tree Festival at the Priory (setting up of Trees) will be held on the morning of Saturday December 7th, so please bring along your hand made decoration for the WI tree, our theme is past Campaigns of the WI. Also, December 7th, WI Carol Service is being held at St Mary's and St Micheal's Church in Egremont at 2pm.

Looking ahead to 2025, our first meeting will be held on Monday January 13th at the Seacote Hotel, 7.30pm start. An Evening of Nostalgia 'My Favourite Toy, Game or Book from your childhood with Story attached, please bring with you your favourite item if you still have it, looking forward to seeing your toys Games and books and hearing all your stories!. Plus Refreshments and raffle. Further details see www.St-Bees-WI-facebook or any WI member.

Myself and the Committee would like to wish all our members, visitors, speakers and supporters of St Bees WI a very Happy Christmas and all our Best wishes for the New Year.

Roxanne

St Bees Green Future

Some of our members have recently been trained by Cumbria Action for Sustainability to deliver volunteer thermal imaging surveys. These free surveys can identify cold spots in your home and can indicate some simple fixes and areas that may require professional advice, helping to make your homes warmer and cheaper to heat. If you would like to arrange a free thermal imaging survey for your home, email stbeesgreenfuture@gmail.com.

These thermal imaging surveys will run alongside a free Home Energy Advice Session delivered by Cumbria Action for Sustainability. This will take place on Thursday 12 December, 10.30am till noon in the Pop In at New College Hall. You can get all your home energy advice questions answered, whether about insulation, draught proofing, heat pumps, solar panels, your energy bills or the grants you may be eligible for.

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

The Acting Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh, wrote to the parishes in the Diocese, following the publication of the Makin Report and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write again at the end of this difficult week to say that I continue to hold all of you in my prayers, particularly those who have felt most troubled and pained by the contents of the Makin report and the responses to it.

As we rightly focus on the failings in safeguarding over decades, renewing our resolve not to repeat these and holding in our hearts all victims and survivors, I want especially to acknowledge the hard work and deep commitment of all those in this diocese who are helping to make the church a safer place for all. From people undertaking training to support church activities, to parish safeguarding officers, ministers, clergy, employees and our Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Safeguarding Advisory Panel, the work you are doing is vital. It is life protecting and life giving. Thank you so much for all you have done, are doing, and will do.

We have all been affected in different ways by the news of the past week. For some this has brought forward very painful memories, which may still be held in secret. For others, it has caused a crisis of confidence in the institution which they are part of and have given so much to. Some are less affected, whilst others feel deeply discouraged. There will be many different feelings and reactions.

What I want to say might seem inadequate in the face of all this, but it is simply this truth: God heals broken hearts. The church, though a flawed, human institution, is also amazingly a vessel through which our perfect saviour, Jesus, heals today. Though his church may fail too often, Jesus is still sure and true and he still comes to bring hope where it has faded, healing where there is brokenness, and justice for all....

So, please join with me in praying, first and foremost, for those most affected by abuse. Please pray that we might have more of God's heart, wisdom and courage so that we may be that safe haven for all which is our calling.

Please know that I am praying for you. Thank you for your prayers for me.

May God bless you over these coming days, and may God tend to you in whichever way you need.

Bishop Rob (15th November 2024)

A Vision for the Churches in Cumbria The Priory perspective

A thought...Just a moment as you buy your Christmas Gifts and Food

It starts with a change, so outwardly insignificant that no one would notice, except the person, behind you in the aisle.

Just a moment when, instead of seeing rows of labels on a supermarket shelf. You imagine the people behind them, tilling the earth, sowing the seed, gathering the crops.

And you pause, wondering, what their names are, where they live,

What difference it will make if your hand picks up this box instead of that,

Wondering: how do I Love these neighbours?

Can I help change this child's long journey for water,

Her mother's lack of healthcare,

The prospect her father faces of another year unable to feed his family well?

Just a moment. and the person behind you, her impatient baby, squirming in the trolley, May never realise that in that brief hesitation, a life hung in the balance.



St Bees Priory Safeguarding

If you have concerns about the safety or care of anyone in St Bees parish please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer on: safeguarding@stbeespriory.co.uk or the Priest in Charge on: revbgibbs@outlook.com or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer on safeguarding.adviser@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

If you would find it helpful to speak to someone independent, you can contact Safe Spaces, a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal, and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England.

You can contact them on 0300 303 1056 or visit their website: safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk.



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

Peace and Joy of the Festive Season to all in St Bees from Avril & David Allen

Derek and Joyce Ashley wish family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

To all our friends both far and near, A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. More than ever we pray for peace, In Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Dick and Anna Beddows

Wishing all our friends a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year. All our love, Deb and Frank Bowler.

Gill Burgess would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

Gill and Jane Dyer would like to thank people for their kindness during their recent difficult days. We would like to wish all in St Bees and surrounding areas a peaceful and happy Christmas

Mark, Sarah, Tom and Emma George would like to wish all their friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year in 2025

Grant and Rena Gilmour wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and an Happy New Year

Jack and Claire Hale would like to wish all their friends and acquaintances a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025

Leonie and Ian Hill wish all friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and New Year

Tom, Pippa, Edward and Douglas Kelly would like to say goodbye to all their friends and family in St Bees and West Cumbria and wish them all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year in 2025

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

Sending Christmas and New Year Greetings to friends and neighbours from Malcolm and Cath Lightfoot.

Warmest Christmas wishes and a happy New Year from Huw and Chris Lewis

Best wishes to all friends and neighbours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2025 from Ian & Rosalie McAndrew.



Pat McDonnell wishes friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2025

Wishing all my friends in St Bees and at the Priory a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Angela McGill

Val Maudsley with her family wish all friends and relatives a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2025

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

Alex and Eileen O'Fee would like to wish all family and friends a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year

Marianne and David Postlethwaite send love and best wishes to all our friends in St Bees. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kate, Adeena and Myla Postlethwaite of Abbey Road would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a healthy New Year

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

Gill Richardson would like to wish family and friends a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year

Wishing all my friends in St Bees love, joy and peace at Christmas and best wishes for 2025. From Mary Todd, Cockermouth

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Village School VSA. Thanks for supporting us this year

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

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

Maureen Barratt wishes all her friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2025

Wishing all our friends and neighbours in St. Bees sincere greetings for this festive season and a Happy and healthy 2025.

Pam and Peter Argyle

Gweneth & family send love and best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas. Grateful thanks for help and support

Jim and Anne Baker send best wishes to everyone for joy a Christmas and peace, health and happiness in the coming year.

Many thanks for all your generous donations to the Priory and Children's Society.

