

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

December 2023 - January 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 Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522).
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 December - January

3 Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Advent Carol Service
4 Monday	7.30 pm	Come & Sing Carols' with Priory Singers, OCH
5 Tuesday	3.00 -6 pm	St Bees School Christmas Fayre, Memorial Hall
6 Wednesday	Leave 11.30 am	Over 60s Christmas Dinner, Ennerdale Brewery
	7.00 pm	VSA AGM, Queen's Hotel
7 Thursday	4.30 pm	St Bees School Carol Service, Priory
9 Saturday	2.00 -5.00 pm	Christmas Tree Festival Set-up Day, Priory
10 Sunday	10.30 am	Christmas Tree Festival service with Orchestra
	2.00 -5pm	Christmas Tree Festival Fair & Teas, Priory & halls
12 Tuesday	7.00 pm	WI Christmas Meal, Queens Hotel
15 Friday	1.30 pm	Village School Christmas Service, Priory
16 Saturday	5.00 pm	Concert with Village Orchestra, Priory
	7.30 pm	Strictly Livestreamed, Village Hall
17 Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, Priory
18 Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
19 Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s Carols Afternoon, Hodgetts Club
22 Friday	4.30 pm	Friday Fun, Priory
23 Saturday	TBA	Christingle-Making, NCH
24 Sunday		No 9.00 am ; No 10.30 am services
	3.30 pm	Christingle Service (collection Children's Society)
	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion service
25 Christmas Day	10.00 am	All-Age Christmas Communion
January		
8 Monday	7.30 pm	W I, Seacote Hotel
		Magazine Copy Date
15 Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting

Editor – February 2024 Magazine

The February 2024 issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jack Hale, Abbey House, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Monday 8 January 2024** please.

Email: jack.hale@newcastle.ac.uk

Tel: 01946 822409

St Bees News

December 2023 - January 2024

Each year I look forward to seeing Christmas ads on TV for the first time and as soon as I saw this year's John Lewis commercial online I loved it straight away. For those of you who haven't seen it a boy buys a seed from a second-hand sale believing it to be from a kit for "planting a perfect Christmas tree". He plants it, and it grows into a Venus flytrap. The plant happily grows in the corner of the living room until it tries to eat the boy's dog, table lamp and furnishings, so his family throws it out into the garden.

The family replace the Venus flytrap with a traditional Christmas tree whilst the rejected plant looks in through the patio doors, its trap shaped leaf face squished up against the glass in longing. The little boy reaches out to his flytrap friend, taking a beautifully wrapped present out to the garden and then his family, inspired by kindness, do the same. The Venus flytrap eats the presents, then regurgitates them back up and spits them at the family, helpfully unwrapped.

On the face of it this is a rather unusual Christmas advert - it's not sentimental, cosy or sparkly. It features a giant present eating plant that almost ruins Christmas. But if you look a little deeper I think it has something very profound and honest to say about our annual festivities. A clue can be found in the backing track, a song especially written for this advert, with Andrea Bocelli theatrically repeating the lyrics 'la vita è una festa', meaning 'life is a celebration'.

The church of England's 2023 Christmas campaign is called "Join the Song" and highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany; darkness into light. There are songs for every season of the church year, just as there are songs for every season of life, and music throughout December and January has the power to comfort and enlighten us.

Songs learnt in childhood, such as hymns, carols and Christmas songs, often seem to "come back" to those whose memory is failing and can be a source of great comfort and joy. In November we successfully launched our first fortnightly "Memory Cafe" in New College Hall (see page?) The café provides those with memory loss and their carers with a warm and welcoming space to meet and chat. Our December gathering will include a few carols too.

It might seem that Andrea Bocelli singing 'life is a celebration' and a Venus flytrap disrupting Christmas don't fit together but Christmas always has been a tale of the unexpected. On the very first Christmas Day a heavenly host of angels frightened a bunch of shepherds witless with their heavenly song about a child born to save the world. The shepherds search for the child and find that he is not a king in a palace but a baby lying in an animal's feeding trough. There was nothing sentimental, cosy or sparkly about this Christmas Day.

The apostle Paul wrote to the early church "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace" (Romans 15:13). My prayer is similar, that despite whatever comes our way, we might be able to say, in the words of Andrea Bocelli, 'la vita è una festa' - 'life is a celebration'.

With love at Christmas and the new year from Reverend Becky

Friends of the Priory News

Many Thanks to all who presented and organised recent fundraising events. The St Bees Man & St Bees Lady lecture by Chris Robson was well-attended and proved a fascinating subject, with dramatic readings – thanks to Chris and readers for revealing the story of St Bees crusader Knight.

A successful Family Film Night in church was much enjoyed by all – with comfy cushions, snacks and drinks, a lantern-lit driveway and an illuminated entrance through the arch of warm coats! Thankyou to Rev Becky and her team of helpers.

The Friends will also be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival .

Priory Singers invite you to a **‘Come & Sing Carols’ event in Old College Hall** on Monday 4 December at 7.30 pm. All welcome. Funds raised will go to the Friends of the Priory. Refreshments served.

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

Sincere Sympathy is extended to Mary McGee of Middletown with all friends and neighbours on the sudden and very sad loss of her dearly beloved husband Derek who died peacefully at Cumberland Infirmary on Friday 10 November. Derek has been well-known in the church congregation and local community over many years, as a church treasurer, church warden and dedicated supporter of Priory church life and worship. He and Mary are much loved and admired in our parish and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Priory Flower Rota for December/January

Season’s Greetings & Good Wishes for 2024 to all on the weekly flower rota and thanks for the many kind donations this past year. Beautiful church flowers are an inspiration to all who visit.

December	Advent – No Flowers	25	Christmas – Pat Crichton
January	7 Flower Fund	14	The Bragg family
	21 Mary McGee	28	Eleanor Crichton

Parish Council News

Flooding- there continue to be serious problems with flooding on the Outrigg to Egremont Road. The Parish Council is pressing Highways for a solution to be found as a matter of urgency. Several vehicles have become stuck in the flooded section or have been damaged by debris in the water. Highways officers have assured us that discussions are taking place with parties involved but the Parish Council is very concerned that the situation could worsen if the water spread by vehicles driving through the flooded section were to ice over during cold weather. Cumberland Council has erected barriers and improved the signage but this cannot be a long term solution.

Remembrance Sunday – The usual parade and wreath laying ceremony took place on Sunday 12 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.

Christmas tree -the Parish Council has once again provided a large tree for the village. By the time this magazine is published the tree should be in place on Cross Hill. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with putting up the tree and lights or help with the Santa Parade on 28 November.

Full Fibre Broadband – Work is set to take place shortly to instal the infrastructure to provide full fibre broadband across the local area. This is part of a government funded project and will make use of existing poles as well as installing some underground cables. The work will be carried out by Viberoptix. The Parish Council has granted a wayleave agreement to allow cabling to be laid under the lonning behind the former Station garage as part of the work required. The work is likely to take place in the next few months.

Next Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 18 December at 6.30pm in the Village Hall with the January meeting taking place on Monday 15 January 2024. All Council meetings are open to the public and all residents are welcome to attend.

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

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Christmas Celebrations at the Priory

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols – will be held on Sunday 17 December at 4.00 pm

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

Please contact Sally Kennedy or Claire Hale or Cath Lightfoot if you can provide mince pies, or choc crispies/brownies, etc. Thankyou!

The Christingle will be on Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December at 3.30 pm (check notices or priory facebook for details) Meeting on Saturday 23 December for creating Christingles – se Rev Becky.

PLEASE NOTE – NO SERVICES at 9.00 am or 10.30 am on Sunday 24 December. Services will be held at 4.00 pm for the Christingle, and 11.30 pm. for Midnight Communion.

Christmas Communion Services – Midnight Communion at 11.30 pm on 24 December And Christmas Day Communion at **10.00 am** on 25 December - **NB earlier time.**

Advent Carol Service – will be on Sunday 3 December at 4.00 pm then refreshments.

What's On at the Priory in December

Concert 'Angel Voices' with W. Cumberland Choral Society – Friday 1st December at 7.00 pm

Tickets available at the door Adults £10; Students £5; under 18s free. With Conductor Margie Simper and Accompanist Frank Bowler. Refreshments served afterwards. All Welcome!

Priory Singers 'Come & Sing Carols' event – in Old College Hall on Monday 4 December at 7.30 pm

All Welcome! Festive refreshments too. Collection taken for Friends of the Priory.

Christmas Tree Festival Service & Village Orchestra – will be on Sunday 10 December at 10.30 am

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

Christmas Tree Festival Fair – on Sunday 10 December from 2.00 to 5.00 pm.

Do tour the trees in church and vote for your favourite; enjoy Egremont Town Band carols too!

Visit the Craft & gift stalls in Old College Hall for crafty Christmas presents; and finish with tea & cake served in New College Hall. Lots of delights for everyone!

Congratulations to our lay reader Wendy Mellor who was due to be licensed on Saturday 18 November in Carlisle Cathedral by Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh, as a Reader in the benefice of St Bees. We keep her in our prayers, as she officially starts this new parish ministry among us. She has been in training for several years, leading and preaching at church services, and completing her course at Theological College.

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Village School Association News

The new VSA team have had a great 2023, a year of Easter Bunnies and Scarecrows.

Starting off with our first Pre-loved toys, books and clothes sale, it was quickly followed by the Easter Fair with raffle, tombola, crafts and our Egg Hunt and Beach Trail. The summer's Bees Bash was a hit – the VSA organised the parade, brass band, fire engine, raffle and stalls. A busy time, but what a great community event!

So many of the villagers took part in our Scarecrow Trail, displaying fun and sometimes spooky displays. It was lovely seeing the village so busy with the Scarecrow hunters! Our second Pre-loved event saw lots of people taking home some goodies.

In between events we organised a few treats for the children: ice-lollies on sports day, refreshments at school plays, and an ice-cream treat for all the kids on the last day of school in the summer. One final treat for this year will be donating Christmas Craft supplies to the children. We're looking forward to seeing their creations!

Thanks to all who have helped support us – school staff, shoppers, villagers, the kids! The VSA team have enjoyed every minute.

If you'd like to help out, come along to our AGM to hear more. AGM: 7 p.m. Wednesday 6th December, Queens Hotel, St Bees. FREE PIZZA! Check our Facebook page for more details.

Supporting the VSA could be as simple as giving an hour of your time to serve refreshments, or helping organise or set-up an event. We'd love to have more people join the team.

Contact us stbees.vsa@gmail.com or message our Facebook page @stbeesvsa.

Village Hall

Saturday 2nd December - Bowjangles present their new SCI-FI horror music comedy "Dracula in Space", supported by Arts Out West Tickets £12.00 adult: £6/u18: Family Ticket £25 Tickets from Claire Hale 07740717481 or book online at www.kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk

Saturday 16th December - Strictly Come Dancing Final live streamed. Bar open /light refreshments. Tickets £6pp £3/u16 Family £15. Tickets from Claire Hale 07740717481 and Val Turpin 07857008462

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Cllr Graham Minshaw**

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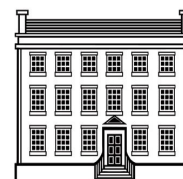
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St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 10th December 2023 - Tuesday 2nd January 2024

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 9th December and also for those wishing to visit during the following weeks:

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

Visitors are warmly encouraged to visit church during the festival period from Sunday 10th December - Tuesday 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, to be announced in church at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 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 The Mothers' Union Caravan Project and the Priory.

Opening hours for visiting the Tree Festival are: Monday - Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and Sunday: 12.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.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.

St Bees Priory Christmas Fair - Sunday 10th December 2023

Come along to the Priory Christmas Fair on Sunday 10th December which is running from 2-5 p.m.; entry is free and here is what will be waiting for you:

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

In Old College Hall- visit the craft and gift stalls and pick up some fabulous Christmas gifts! Please note that some stall holders will accept card payments but others will be cash only so please bring plenty with you!

In New College Hall - enjoy a range of refreshments - tea, coffee, juice and cakes (cash only). Please note - dogs are not permitted in the refreshments area.

All proceeds from this event (excluding craft stall holders) will be shared between The Mothers' Union Caravan Project and St Bees Priory.

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

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Well, St. Bees ghosts and hauntings

.... To the several readers who have enquired, I can only apologise for this late and inadequate answer. Old St. Bees seems never to have been greatly troubled by the supernatural, and the few stories that have come down the years to us, strike me as barely credible. Maybe my problem with ghoulies and ghosties is that I cannot believe in any of them.

Of course there have always been folk around with opinions quite opposite. Yet even the excellent memoir left us by Town Head Farmer John Sewell advises a pinch of salt with much that he tells. Having grown up in Victorian times at How Man at the South of the village, Sewell could relate what was commonly believed of "*How Man Hop*". She was a female ghost whose head had been removed in life, who was nevertheless able to appear on dark nights roaming anywhere in the area. According to Jonathan Herd and Jackson Flemming, both village worthies, she would appear suddenly and silently, floating as though weightless over walls and ditches without ever touching them. Something of a feat, because all the while she cradled her severed head as if precious, in her arms.

Long after John Sewell's time, I was told a different story linked to How Man. An elderly village lady of undoubted integrity repeated for me her old grandmother's assertion that strange things still happened there. According to the grandmother, a quarry-worker (whose Biblical-sounding forename she could not recall) had been walking home one winter evening after his day's work had finished.

Alone on the dark How Man road, he suddenly became aware that someone - or some thing uncannily silent - was following closely behind him. Even before daring to look back, he somehow knew what it was. With horror he knew it to be the ghost of his wife's uncle, even though he had seen that uncle hale and hearty that very morning. But on rushing home he found the uncle dead there, having collapsed suddenly that afternoon. Only then did the workman recognise the unwanted part he had been made to play - that of leading the ghost to where the dispossessed body awaited it.

Of course it is hard to find real evidence in matters of this sort. Perhaps it is relevant that at around the right time St. Bees had two workmen with biblical-sounding forenames - one an Elijah and the other a Joshua. But I have found nothing to link either to How Man. Jonathan Herd, however, is well documented: a significant figure in village life with a desirable property at the end Main Street, his occupation given as 'house proprietor'.

There may be other tales of hauntings in St. Bees, but I have heard of nothing at all substantial. Once there was a barn on High House road which choirboys were afraid to pass. On winter evenings after Practice the Priory organist is known to have escorted them past it. Also, too, a ghost was said to pass sometimes between the Priory graveyard and the Public School. I wonder whether one of the Old Boys might elucidate?

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

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St Bees School News

Post 16 education is an important step and one that needs to be considered carefully. It is the time when you choose the subjects that lead to university life or the world of employment and paves the way for your future.

St Bees School is set apart from the rest, we are an independent secondary school with small class sizes, a deliberate choice which enables our young adults to develop with academic and pastoral guidance which in turn leads to success and achievement that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Our students develop skills needed for the future, and for life after St Bees, whether that be moving onto University or going into the world of work.

The Sixth Form cohort is comprised of the Pre-A Level group (an international focused class where students follow a fast-track IGCSE programme, with enhanced EAL lessons), in addition to Year 12 and Year 13. This year, we have over 40 students – with each one being a credit unto themselves - and to us.

Since reopening in September 2018, Sixth Form has expanded astronomically - and we now have additional online resources to make all students' experiences better, whilst continuing with all of the structure that has created such an enviable academic success so far.

We have seen our students go onto study at prestigious Universities such as Kings College, Brunel University of London, Edinburgh, Lancaster, and Leeds – with offers already coming in from the likes of Durham, UCL, Imperial College London, Manchester, and Liverpool for the 2023-24 academic year.

Ultimately, our aim is to provide a tool kit, an infrastructure and an inspirational space and opportunity for each student, the independence you will gain from being part of the Sixth Form at St Bees will undoubtedly prepare you for a great future. Not only will you gain academic skills, but through our international cohort, you will form lifelong friendships and create unforgettable memories and experiences.

If you feel that what we offer here is of interest and that you have the skill set we are seeking then we encourage anyone interested to come and look round – meet our students, our staff - and discover a place where you can truly be yourself.

Find out more at stbeesschool.co.uk/sixthform



Grassroots

Over 60s

The Christmas dinner will take place on December 6th, this is a Wednesday, at the Ennerdale Brewery Tap. The bus will leave The Oddfellows pub at 11.30 a.m. usual pickups. On Tuesday, 19th December at 2 p.m. in Hodgett's club Mr Neil Bettinson will lead us in singing Christmas carols. Please come and have a good sing. I would like to wish our members a Happy Christmas and see you in the New Year. *Gill Richardson*

Railway Museum annual art display

Many thanks to all who contributed and attended this year's final opening session art display, featuring a range of styles from a variety of local artists. Many sales were made and donations given, thanks to all involved. As per last year, the funds raised are being used to help buy prosthetic limbs for Ukrainians who have lost a limb in their fightback against Russian aggression - a grand total of £126 being raised. The museum will be closed now for its winter break, re-opening in March 2024.

St Bees School Christmas Fayre – Tuesday, 5th December from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Refreshments and Remembrance Poems

As the Saturday of the Multi charity Sale was on 11th November, it was decided to have poems, that reflected remembrance, read every 10-15 minutes. It was very moving and good to have the opportunity to sit quietly. The donation bucket raised £124.20p that will be given to Christian Aid's Emergency appeal. Christian Aid is not only working with Palestinians and Israelis, but is still in Ukraine, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar.....sadly too many conflicted countries to name.

Your donation will help Christian Aid to play its part in Trying to bring peace and justice to troubled nations, while helping the traumatised.

Thank-You - Time to Share

The 2023 Bingo in the Oddfellows Arms for "Time to Share" Copeland's children bereavement services held on November 11th was an enormous success again. It certainly was a full house!

Margaret, Claire and Margaret would like to sincerely thank everyone that gave donations, provided prizes and to those that were able to attend the fundraiser.

At the time of writing the amount raised is £1,040.00p

We are genuinely humbled by every-one's kindness and wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and good health in 2024.

Lunga's Ideas on Tricks and Treats

Hello, Lunga here.

My mammy always has a lovely supply of treats. I'm sure your mammy has the same. When we are out walking, if we meet another dog mammy shows me a biscuit. They are lovely and so I follow it with my nose and then a little further on sit and eat it. I then look back and find the other dog has gone by. Magic! At lunchtime I have 'lessons' most days. Mammy puts a biscuit down that I must leave. She then covers it with her hand and sometimes changes hands to confuse me but eventually I'm allowed the biscuit that magically appears from under one hand.

Sometimes mammy wants me to come in from the garden when I'd rather stay outside. She tricks me with perhaps a bit of broccoli stalk or pumpkin, so I go in for that and find that the door shuts behind me as if by magic. Does your mammy play tricks with you?

Mammy tells me that soon there will be presents. There seems to be a lot of writing of cards, cooking and singing of carols going on – they are quite soothing and can send me to sleep....Zzzz.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers.

WI News

Our November meeting was held on Monday 13th; we welcomed Alvina, who created some wonderful Christmas Flower Arrangements which were raffled at the end of the night. A good turn out and everyone enjoyed the demonstration which got us all in the festive spirit!

Looking ahead, Saturday, 2nd December, the Cumbria-Cumberland WI Carol Service will be held at Christ Church Cockermouth at 2 p.m.

The Priory Christmas Tree Festival set-up is on Saturday December 9th from 2-5 p.m., and on Tuesday 12th December our St Bees WI Christmas Meal, 7 p.m. at the Queens Hotel.

Our first event of the New Year 2024, "My Favourite Photograph", will be on Monday, 8th January at the Seacote Hotel, 7.30 p.m. start. Please bring along a favourite photograph, this can be any subject with a story attached, A favourite place, a pet, a family photograph, literally anything you like. Prize for photograph accompanied by best story. Raffle and refreshments. Further details on our face book page www.St-Bees-WI-facebook or contact Roxanne on 823137, or any Committee member.

My very Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to All our Members, visitors and supporters of St Bees WI and look forward to welcoming you all in the New Year.

Roxanne

Village School News

We would like to thank the governing body of St Bees Village School as we continue to go through a period of change in school.

We joined Changing Lives Learning Trust on 1st November and the Governors have been integral to this transition. They have worked hard and shown a great deal of commitment over the last year, with numerous meetings and several visits to school to meet up with subject leads and review pupils work to gain an understanding of the curriculum overview and progress being made by pupils. We have also had training sessions for safeguarding and workshops to work with the Headteacher to consider our vision and ethos statement and how it drives the curriculum and the school Development Plan.

As we move forward with CCLT, we shall welcome our new Headteacher, Kate Davis in January, along with other new faces and new ideas. Schools are like any other workplace where governors, pupils and staff come and go. We are currently looking for new governors to support our thriving school and would very much welcome an enthusiastic, committed member of the community to join our team.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the St Bees Village School community and would like to thank you all for your tremendous support over the past 9 years.

Emma Sharp, Headteacher

Becoming a governor at our school

Anyone wishing to enquire about joining our governing body should contact the school either direct or via our website www.stbeesvillage.cumbria.sch.uk If a vacancy is not available at the time, we are happy to record your details for when one does arise. Training will be provided to governors free of charge as an ongoing entitlement. Same again next year? We hope that answer is 'yes!'

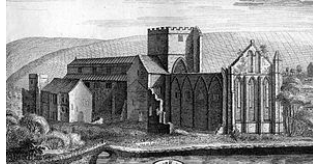
Bike ride to York

A BIG Thank you to everyone who supported me for my bike ride to York. You helped raise a massive £2,700 for the Summer of Hope Appeal. This is an effective Mothers' Union project providing training for literacy, numeracy and social development skills. A recent independent review of this training found how life changing it has been for individuals, families and communities. Becoming literate and understanding their rights has enable women to flourish, this has reduced violence in the home. It has also enabled them to become more involved within their communities and even take up leadership roles. Women now run more businesses and the agricultural training and how to work in co-operatives has improved the quality and sustainability of food production, improving health and wealth!

Thank you, our generosity will have improved the life chances of many!

EXCITING NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY!

Are you keen to be part of a team securing the future of St Bees Priory for years to come? If so, we may have the job for you. St Bees Parochial Church Council (PCC) are looking to appoint a part-time Operations and Properties Administrator Supporting the Vicar and Churchwarden/s in undertaking particular regulatory and practical responsibilities for the parish church, its furnishings, graveyard and grounds. The Operations and Properties Administrator will have a key role in helping to maintain the fabric of the listed buildings and also to ensure that it is adapted to current needs.



For the person specification and role description please contact the office at enquiries@stbeespriory.co.uk. For more information please contact Reverend Becky. All Priory appointments are made following the diocese of Carlisle Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding policies. Closing date for applications in 9th January 2024.

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The course is run over 10 sessions, either online or in person covering topics like essence, story, community, suffering and hope. Each session holds space to hear the large and small stories that have made up your life and for you to listen to those of others, it then puts our stories in the context of a talk based in thinking from other cultures and times.

There is no judgementalism, no wrong answers and no proscribed path for you. Truth is only found as we learn how to be with.

For more details contact Reverend Becky at revbgibbs@outlook.com

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

The night was dark and stormy
The dunny light was dim
We heard a shout and then a splash
Oh, no Santa's fallen in.

We hope you can keep a little light shining
this Christmas, Love Anna and Dick

Wishing all our friends and neighbours in
St.Bees sincere greetings for this festive
season and a Happy and healthy 2024.
Pam and Peter Argyle

Philip & Maureen Barratt wish all their
friends and neighbours a very Happy
Christmas and all good wishes for 2024.

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

Mary & Ernie Branford send Season's
Greetings and all Good Wishes for the
New Year to family, friends and
neighbours.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024
to all our friends, neighbours, Triers and
Mellow Veloers! Andy, Nancy, Lucy
& Ben.

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

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

Happy Christmas and hopes for a peaceful
New Year to all from the Craig family at
Moses Trod.

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

Gweneth & family send love and best
wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas.
Grateful thanks for help and support
during difficult times to so many people
(especially Hartleys Beach Shop and staff).

Mark, Sarah, Tom & Emma George would
like to wish all their friends and
neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy 2024.

Grant and Rena Glimour wish all their
friends in the village, a very Merry
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Jack and Claire Hale would like to wish all
their friends and acquaintances a very
Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024



Leonie and Ian Hill send Christmas
Greetings and best wishes for the New
Year to friends and neighbours.

Bob and Thelma Jopling would like to
send Seasonal Greetings to their many
friends in the area, and their heartfelt
thanks for so much kindness shown to
them through the year.

Huw and Chris Lewis and family would
like to send very best wishes for a merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Sending Christmas and New Year
Greetings to friends and neighbours from
Malcolm and Cath Lightfoot.

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

Best wishes to all friends and neighbours
for a Merry Christmas and a Happy &
Healthy 2024 from Ian & Rosalie
McAndrew.

Pat McDonnell wishes all friends and
neighbours Seasons Greetings and a
Happy New Year.

I wish all my friends in St Bees and at the
Priory Church a very Happy
Christmas and Prosperous New Year.
Angela McGill.

Alex and Eileen O'Fee would like to
wish all family and friends a very
Happy Christmas and an especially
healthy and peaceful 2024.

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

The Postlethwaite
families from
Abbeyvale send
Christmas cheer to
all their friends in
St Bees and wish
them a Happy and
Peaceful New Year.



Seasons Greetings to all family and friends
from Gill Richardson.

Margaret, Emma-Jane, Geoff & Katy wish
you peace, joy, and love this Christmas
and always.

Wishing all my friends in St Bees love, joy
and peace at Christmas and best wishes for
2024. From Mary Todd, Cockermouth.

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

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

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

