

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 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.	History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
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.	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.
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.	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.
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	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.
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	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.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	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.
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Currently Tom Kelly + 3 vacancies.	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.
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel -07840 844424	Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
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 - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. 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 Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
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 .	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, Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.	Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
Garden Society		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 February

Calendar for February

4	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Priory
8	Thursday	4.30-5.30 pm	St Bees School Chinese New Year, Memorial Hall
11	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Prayer, Priory
		2.00 - 4.00 pm	Green Future Clothes Swap, Adams Pavilion
12	Monday	7.30 pm	St Bees W.I., Tony Calvin's Talk, Seacote
13	Tuesday	12.00 -2.00 pm	Shrove Pancake Party, NCH or Village hall
		12.15 - 1.45 pm	Memory & Friendship Café, Priory
		7.00 pm	PCC Meeting, Priory
14	Wednesday	9.45 am	Ash Wednesday Service, Priory
17	Saturday	7.30 pm	Pocket Choral Society Concert, Village Hall
18	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Priory
		2.00 -1.00 pm	St Bees Beach Clean (meet at Lifeboat Station)
19	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
23	Friday	4.30- 6.00 pm	Friday Fun for 5s -Teens, Priory
25	Sunday	9.00 am	Story Service, Priory
		10.30 am	Morning Prayer, Priory
27	Tuesday	12.15-1.45 pm	Memory & Friendship Café, Priory

Lent Quiet Communion on Thursdays

15, 22 & 29 February; 7, 14 & 21 March - In the Priory, at 9.45 am.

Ash Wednesday service on 14 February will be held in the Priory at 9.45 am and in St Mary & St Michael's Parish Church, Egremont at 6.00 pm.

Pop-In Café is held in the Priory, until the New College Hall is accessible and ceiling repairs done.

Editor – March 2024

The March 2024 issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Anthony Payne, 83a Main Street, St Bees** who would appreciate contributions not later than **Thursday 8 February** please.

Email : payne.croeso@btinternet.com Tel: 01946 822637

St Bees News

February 2024

I was twelve years old when Rick Astley's chart topping hit "Never gonna give you up" spent five weeks at number one. Thirty something years later I was thrilled to receive tickets for his Arena gig in Newcastle at the end of the month. Rick's decades of success are, in part, down to the popularity (and, let's be honest, ridicule) of his 1987 hit. You may not be a fan of Rick Astley, you may have never been "rickrolled" but you have probably heard the lyrics...Never gonna give you up, Never gonna let you down, Never gonna run around and desert you, Never gonna make you cry, Never gonna say goodbye, Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you.

February in the vicarage this year will feature (amongst other things) a public consultation on vicarage viability, Valentines Day (maybe!) Ash Wednesday, the first weeks of a Lent course, prayers of living in love and faith and Rick! Quite a disparate list on first glance...but it occurs to me that Lent and Rick might have more in common than is immediately obvious and here's why...

Our Lent course this year is "Loving my Neighbour", six sessions, meeting both online and in person, to discuss the answers to questions about loving those who are vulnerable, suffering or different to us. We will also explore what it means to love in truth, love oneself, love the world around us and love to the end - never giving up on love.

Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday coincide this year so it makes perfect sense to make love our focus this Lent. Eros or romantic love and agape or self-giving love. (See centre pages for more details of the Lent course)

Love is very much on the agenda of the PCC and congregation of St Bees this month, specifically the Church of England's "Prayers for Living in Love and Faith". On 12th December, the House of Bishops commended these prayers to be used in regular public worship services when praying with and for a same-sex couple who love one another and who wish to give thanks for and mark that love in faith before God. In January the PCC met and agreed to actively listen to the views of the congregation on the possible introduction of these prayers to public worship in the Priory. The PCC will meet in February to share what they have heard and prayerfully discern our next steps.

Loving the world around us has environmental implications. As you may be aware the Church of England is aiming for zero carbon emissions by 2030. One of the biggest stumbling blocks to this is the energy efficiency of their buildings. Some buildings are trickier to future proof than others, St Bees vicarage poses some challenges in this area. The Diocese are keen to engage with the parish in conversations about future clergy housing in St Bees. Is it possible to make changes to St Bees vicarage so that it is more energy efficient or is it necessary to start looking for a new house for the vicar? There will be a public consultation on the future of the vicarage to which all are welcome on Wednesday 7th February at 7pm in the Priory followed by refreshments and informal discussion at 8pm.

I began this letter with a pop song from 1980s and I'll leave you with a slightly adapted prayer from the 1550s...love be in our heads and in our understanding; love be in our eyes, and in our looking; love be in our mouths, and in our speaking; love be in our hearts, and in our thinking; love be at our end, and at our departing. Amen. (*Sarum Primer, 1558*)

With love from Reverend Becky

Priory News

Christmas Services in the Priory – were beautiful and well-attended ceremonies with wonderful choral carols, inspiring us and lifting spirits in troubled times. Special thanks go to the organisers, Rev Becky and our ministry team and lay leaders, organist and the full Priory choir. All was much appreciated by the congregation and those viewing on livestream.

The Christingle & Crib Service was held on Christmas Eve and much enjoyed by all the many families there. Thankyou to everyone for the collection of £286.40 to the Children's Society & the Christmas Appeal. Huge thanks to the Friday Fun team of leaders and families helping make up the Christingles, and to Emma-Jane for organising the busy work of preparing 100 Christingles!

Christmas Tree Festival Service – Held with the Blessing of the trees and celebrated with the lively accompaniment of the Priory Orchestra. Many grateful thanks to their new conductor Alison Birchall, and to Frank Bowler and the full family orchestra. Many thanks also to the Friday Fun team of leaders & children presenting the amusing Nativity Drama of 'The Grumpy Innkeeper' produced by Deb Lee.

Christmas Tree Festival Fair – Sincere Thanks to Sarah George for masterminding the Festival - not only the setting-up of the trees but also organising the Craft Fair, the refreshments team and the ongoing entertainment by the Egremont Town Band. Over £700 was raised in donations and contributions – to be shared between the Priory and the Mothers Union Caravan Project in St Bees, providing holidays for deprived families. Thanks to you, one and all!

Sincere Thanks to all who decorated the Priory so beautifully for Christmas– to the strongarm team of Jack Hale, Carl Hughes and Colin Wadey installing the Priory Tree and those at Pop-In helping to decorate. More Thanks to them for dismantling the tree after Twelfth Night! Thanks too to Pat Crichton for the gorgeous flower-arrangements; to Rosalie for the Advent Ring; and to Rev Becky for the Crib scene in the stable.

Special Thanks to our high-level engineers – to Jack Hale and Bill Nunnerley hoisting the illuminated cross onto the belfry tower – a dazzling light shining over the village, thankfully impervious to storms! Thanks too to Doug Sim for floodlighting the Priory for the festive season, in place until Candlemas – a beacon to guide visitors on dark winter nights.

Christmas Gifts under the Priory Tree – Thankyou everyone for your kind and thoughtful gifts to our senior St Beghians locally and to those distributing them.

Parish Council News

Budget & Precept 2024/5 – At the meeting on 15 January the Parish Council approved its three year budget and set the parish precept for 2024/25. This is the small amount included in everyone's council tax bill to help fund the work of the Parish Council. The precept was set at £57000 which equates to an increase of approx. 8p per week for a Band D property. The Parish Council will continue to provide services and facilities such as the beach toilets, allotments, play areas in the village etc and will progress projects to provide additional off road parking and improvements to the Outrigg play area.

Station Improvements – We have been informed by contractors acting for Network Rail that work is due to start in February to raise the height of both platforms to improve disabled access. The train service will be unaffected but the upper part of Station car park will be required as a storage compound and to provide access for the contractors and a number of parking spaces will be unavailable from 12 February to 19 April.

Nethertown Rd Litter Bin – The litter bin which was mounted on a sign post on Nethertown Rd has been removed by Cumberland Council for safekeeping after the post rusted through and collapsed. Highways have been asked to replace the post and the litter bin will then be reinstated. In the meantime it would be appreciated if dog walkers would take dog waste bags home or use another bin for disposal and not leave bags on the roadside.

Flooding- there continue to be serious problems with flooding on the Outrigg to Egremont Road. Cumberland Council has now decided to instal a new drain to link into the existing drains by the Loughrigg junction. The first stage will be to design the new drain but once the construction works begin on site, we are told that the road should be open within 6 weeks.

Christmas tree – Thank you to all those who helped put up and take down the Christmas tree. The Parish Council would particularly like to thank the local resident who provided the electricity for the tree lights and those who disposed of the tree. A donation to charity is being made in lieu of payment for the electricity.

Next Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 19 February at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

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From the Priory Registers

Christian Funeral

28 November Derek John McGee Briery Bank, Middletown

7 December John Alan Haile Fleetholme, High House Road, St Bees

May you rest in peace and may the Lord's blessing be upon you and your loved ones.

John Haile

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of John Haile who passed away peacefully at home on 22nd November. All his life John has always been a long-standing member of St Bees community and of St Bees Priory, totally dedicated to the life and work of the parish and its organisations. He had an extensive knowledge of church maintenance and administration. John served faithfully as a PCC member and bellringer, churchwarden and patron for over 40 years. He was also noted as a devoted Parish Councillor for many years. He had a long association with the Scouts, and enjoyed teaching scouting skills with Scoutmasters John Warbrick and Alan Hawkins; also organising Scout camps in Ennerdale and Eskdale and the annual sports on the Adams Rec. He had a great sense of adventure, a lively sense of humour, and a strong faith. We give thanks for a full life well-lived. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Eleanor, his family Claire and Andrew, and grandchildren Alexander and Natasha.

Derek John McGee of Briery Bank, Middletown. 28th November.

I would like to thank all those who attended the celebration of Derek's life in St Bees Priory and I am grateful for all the letters, sympathy cards, beautiful flowers and plants. I have been overwhelmed with so many expressions of loving kindness. God bless you all.
Mary

Priory Flower Rota for February

4 Claire Summers 11 Lent – No Flowers

18 Lent – No Flowers 25 Lent – No Flowers

Note - Posies for Mothering Sunday will be made by the team of volunteers on Saturday 9th March.

New College Hall lower hall

Following a plaster fall we have had to stop using the lower hall pending investigations. The initial survey, while reassuring us that there is no danger of roof/upper hall floor collapse, cannot exclude the possibility of further plaster falls at the moment. Further investigations by our architects are planned and following those we hope to be able to repair the fallen area and open the hall pending further more substantial work.

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News from the Village School

It has been my pleasure to settle into life at St Bees Village School and spend time getting to know the wonderful staff, children and their families; there is much to be proud of in this school and I am very much looking forward to the term ahead. The thing that I have been most struck by is the number of people who have been proud to tell me that they came to the village school as a child and now their child, or even their grandchild is now at the school. This shows me what an important part of the community the school is and I look forward to developing these community links further in the future.

A reminder that we offer wrap around care in school; Breakfast Club from 7.30am and After School Club until 5.30pm. Contact srobertson@stbeesvillage.cumbria.sch.uk to book places.

We also have places available in our Early Years setting from April 2024 for children aged 2 years plus. Funded places are available for 15 to 30 hours per week. Please contact cspedding@stbeesvillage.cumbria.sch.uk for further information.

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.

Thank you for your support.

K. Davis

Village School Association

2023, a fun and busy first year. 2024 - bigger and bolder ideas! 2023 was the first year as a team for our current VSA committee, organising community events such as our Easter Fair, Bees Bash and the Scarecrow Trail.

We raised approximately £3867 through the year, so thank you all for your support! We were able to arrange for some nice surprises for the school children including Hartley's ice creams at the end of summer term, Christmas craft supplies and new nativity costumes.

Now, we're looking forward to welcoming the new Head and finding out how we can support the school through 2024.

2024 will see a repeat of some of our popular community events, and we'll also have our Pre-Loved sales, uniform and fancy dress sales, refreshments at plays and sports day, etc. And new for 2024 we're hoping to organise Christmas wreath making sessions!

If you'd like to help, in any way, please get in touch. Currently, our team mostly consists of mums and dads with kids in the infant classes and younger; we're in it for the long run! Contact us via our Facebook page, or email stbees.vsa@gmail.com. All the best for 2024!

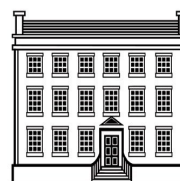
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St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival 2023

I am delighted to announce that the winners of the Priory Christmas Tree Festival 2023 are as follows:

1st- Mellow Velo Cyclists 2nd- The Holy Mowers
3rd= St Bees RNLI & The Priory Bellringers

The winners received £50 as their prize money! A huge thank you once again to everyone who supported both the Christmas Tree Festival and the Christmas Fair- between both events we made a profit of £736.40. This money will be shared between The Mothers' Union Caravan Project and St Bees Priory Church.

It's looking likely that the dates for the 2024 event will be 7th/8th December but I will confirm nearer the time! Any feedback from last year/ideas for the 2024 Tree Festival and Christmas Fair would be greatly appreciated- please email: sa-rahgeorge.bees@gmail.com or phone/message on: 07793 754803.

I wish you all the best for the year ahead and look forward to lighting up the Priory again in December. (It's never too soon to get planning!)

Sarah George

Hello. Lunga here.

Did you get presents? Mine were mostly wrapped in newspaper which makes a nice snack! There were lots of treats, but spoil sport mammy did not let me eat them all at once including the packaging! Happy New Year, by the way.

We went on a bus. There were some other people and a dog also on the bus. Most seemed to be sitting on the seats that were comfy but I was quickly directed to the floor. When we got off, we were by a lot of boats. We walked all the way home along the cliffs. Mammy met people she knew, and I met one of my brothers. He was going the other way, but I expect he had a bus ride back home.

By the time you read this I'll be three, or 21 in doggy years. I expect my brothers and sisters will also be three. Mammy says she's not giving me the key of the door. Good job as I don't think I'd be able to open the door with a key. I find the best plan of action with doors is to look at the handle intently and eventually it will open – easier than a key.

After Christmas we packed my yellow bag and went to the caravan. Mammy needs to go on a weather course. She's had her finger on the rain button far too long. One day I sensibly sheltered under a hedge. That did not last long as mammy did not fit under the hedge and she thought we should both get wet together! Whenever we went out there were new rivers and lakes – I know it is the lake district, but there are limits. The other trouble is the mud. I can't seem to avoid it unless we go on a beach. Mud means washing of the 'feet'. Roll on some spring weather.

That's all for now.

Happy spring when it comes. Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers

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Main Street, mainly

Last month's magazine mentioned Jonathan Herd. One of his contemporaries had written of Jonathan's belief that a wandering, headless ghost haunted one end of our village. Doubtless, in Victorian times, it was easier for such an idea to persist than in our "better educated" age.

Since the December article, several of our readers have noticed the nameplate marked '1840' above the door of 83 Main Street. This is where Jonathan and his wife lived, with two adult daughters, who were dressmakers. Soon the Herds began to take in students from the growing College, often two or three at a time. With their comings and goings, and the dressmakers' customers arriving for advice and fittings, Jonathan must have found it a busy place from which to run his own business. When required to state his occupation, he styled himself "property owner".

If the '1840' on the nameplate above the door is house's building date, it had seen almost the start of Main Street's transformation. From early Victorian times, there was much to be done. I must thank the Revd. Canon Park for this extract from a newly-arrived student's letter. Arriving through "a bare and ugly valley, thinly populated", he found:

"...a long, straggling place above an ancient Abbey, this is St. Bees. A primitive village, small stone houses, a dirty unpaved road, then a smart new terrace of lodging houses, next a quantity of straw and farm litter, then a row of dirty cabins: repeat this about three or four times, till you are about a mile up the hill.....and there you have it, St. Bees".

Of course, at this time, there was no mains sewerage, each house or group of houses having its own cess-pit. Water was carried up to the houses from springs or wells (there is still a Well Field off Seamill Lane), and there were 'dipping holes' along the beck. Main Street was virtually un-drained, and was repaired in bad spots with shillies from the beach or ashes from domestic fireplaces. And there were a good many tumbledown cottages with rotting or worn-out thatch; the first of these to go being a row of six, close to what has now become the entrance to Seacroft Drive. Improvements came as the years went by; with better built houses, some quite spacious, and others on a scale to suit students from the Theological College.

When, at the end of the century, the village needed to advertise itself, it would boast of being "that favourite resort of gentlefolk and invalids from all parts of the realm". What a far cry from the time of Jonathan Herd, and his fellow believers in our own St. Bees ghost.

Bob Jopling Local History Group

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St Bees Swimming Pool



General swim sessions are now available EVERY DAY at St Bees School pool.

Check out our website to find the up-to-date timetable.

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

Friends of the Priory

The Friends have had another successful year and have raised funds for the upkeep of the Priory. We are very grateful to all our members and to that loyal band of supporters who attend our events. We thank all who donate their time and energy in giving talks and providing their expertise for other events. We await requests from the PCC for the financing of future projects.

In February a new group, The Friends of Priory Paddock, was set up. They have been producing audio-guides to the changing seasons in the wildflower garden, which may be found on Jack Hale's Youtube channel. We supported their pond-dipping event in April later than originally planned due to a late spring. There was also a guided tour of Priory Paddock for Big Green Week.

We hosted three illustrated talks during the year. Claire Summers gave a talk about teaching resuscitation in Tanzania, Chris Ward asked, Is photography art? and Chris Robson and friends presented the late Lois Howard's St Bees Man writings.

Our musical events were a concert from Egremont Town Band in May and Festival Choral evensong followed by a buffet tea in June. Priory Singers had an open rehearsal in Old College Hall in December as the group is currently too small to give a concert. Rev Becky organised a successful Family Film Night.

Our Facebook page highlighted all the above plus other events in the Priory during the year as well as the beautiful flower arrangements. One notable event was the broadcast of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Our Christmas tree in the Christmas tree festival focused on our aims and the help we need. We are looking for new committee members to help plan and run events. We have about six short committee meetings each year on Wednesday evenings. There is a vacancy for a membership secretary. Enquiries by email to fopstb@gmail.com or speak with a committee member.

We ask all members to publicise our activities and try to persuade more to join us. The Treasurer thanks all who pay by standing order and would like to receive outstanding payments from any who inadvertently forgot to pay last year. Subscriptions for membership of the friends are now £10 for an individual and £15 for a family. Monies should be sent to Mr Norman Killip, Honey Bee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BH or by Bank transfer to The Friends of the Priory Sort code 01-09-54 account no. 83846999 with your name as the reference.

We thank you all for your support and wish you a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Grassroots

Welcome to Dave and Sandra Knight on their move from Kent to Highcroft House, High House Road in St Bees. They both will be getting involved in village life and Dave plans to continue his locksmith/handyman businesses locally - see current website - www.thepropertydoctorltd.com & www.thelockdoctor.uk.com

Priory Pancake Day is planned for Shrove Tuesday 14 February – hopefully in New College Hall if it's accessible OR in Hodgetts Village Hall. Sally Kennedy & team invite you to A Pancake Party from 12noon to 2.00pm. Savoury or sweet Pancakes with a choice of fillings on offer – pancake & drink @ £3. Do watch for further info on Facebook or church notices/pewsheets. Funds raised in aid of ?

On the move – Please note that dear members of the Priory and Pop-In Russell & Brenda Gainford have now moved back to the area from Millom to Rosehill Care Home at Low Moresby, Whitehaven. They will certainly appreciate seeing friends from St Bees.

Memory & Friendship Café in the Priory – meets fortnightly in the Priory from 12.15 to 1.45 pm.

Chinese New Year Celebrations at St Bees School – on Thursday 8 February you are welcome to attend from 4.30 to 5.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Traditional Chinese Dance & crafts & much more!

The Pocket Choral Society - An new touring acapella group of 4 singing close harmonies and quirky lyrics with laughter and improvisation. St Bees Village Hall Sat 17th Feb at 7.30. Tickets from Claire Hale:07749717481 or book online at www.kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk £12 adults £25(family), £6 students

St Bees Green Future - Clothes swap. If you want to save money, update your wardrobe and help the planet, come along to our next clothes swap! Join St Bees Green Future at Adams Recreation Ground on Sunday 11th February from 2 till 4 pm. All clothes and accessories in good condition are welcome. It costs £4 to take part, which includes refreshments and as many items as you would like to take away. See you there!

Beach clean - The next organised beach clean at St Bees is on Sunday 18th February, 12 till 1pm, meeting at the beach clean station by the seafront toilets. Gloves, litter pickers and bags are provided. Supervised children are very welcome to join in. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees beach tidy.

St Bees 2024 Stratford Trip: Monday 5th - Friday 9th August.

The Plays: Shakespeare's "Pericles", "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and "As You Like It", Sheridan's "A School for Scandal".

Booking deadline: February 2nd.

Please email Jon Mellor - jonmell@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07341230954 for further details.

St Bees Priory Light Show -

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 March. 6.00 - 9.00 pm

Created by the award winning Lux Moralis artistic collaboration. They were responsible for the amazing light show that transformed Carlisle Cathedral last year.

Come and see the universe, galaxies, space, creation and light through a variety of sound and light installations in the Priory.

The show will run every 15 minutes. Entrance £4.00. Further details in next month's magazine.

Village in Bloom

Eileen Todd has just completed 30 years with the Village in Bloom team, a group she started, with the late Enid Smith, in 1993.

She has finally decided to hang up her gardening gloves due to failing eyesight and home circumstances.

Her dedication and enthusiasm were paramount to the St Bees group achieving success in County & Country competitions, open garden events and planting flowers and shrubs wherever they would grow. Although, much reduced in numbers, the present group will carry on trying to keep up Eileen's high standards.

Village in Bloom is supported by villagers, The Parish Council & Northern Rail.

If you would like to join the Village in Bloom group please contact the Parish Council Clerk Jane Donaldson Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk, She will pass your contact details to one of the team.

St Bees WI

Firstly, Thankyou to the Queens Hotel for a most enjoyable Christmas Meal, well attended by our members.

Our First meeting of the New Year was 'My Favourite Photograph', members brought a favourite photograph to talk about, the best photo with a story attached was won by Helen Bushby. All the photographs and stories were amazing, from a holiday to Rome in the 1960's, A beautiful Bride, Local Lakeland and St Bees Views, lots of family photographs and a trip to Scotland! We were all entertained with a trip down memory lane, with wonderful recollections thanks to everyone for your participation!

Our February meeting is Bees and Bee Keeping by Tony Calvin. This will be on Monday 12th February 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel. There will be refreshments and raffle. New members most welcome, visitors £4. Do join us. Further details on Our Facebook page www.St-Bees-WI-facebook . Thankyou

St Bees School

Current St Bees School Headmaster, Robin Silk, will leave the school at the end of this academic year (August 2024).

Mr. Silk, who has been Headmaster at St Bees since summer 2021, will be embarking on a new chapter as he joins the King's School Vattanaacville, Cambodia as their Founding Principal.

Since joining the school, Mr Silk has played a vital role in its growth and development, seeing student numbers rise exponentially. However, having spent most of his teaching career on the international stage, Robin feels this is the right time to return to international education – and ultimately pass the baton of St Bees onto another deserved individual.

Until then, Robin will continue to lead the school with the same passion and dedication until the end of the academic year, whereupon current Deputy Head and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Andrew Keep, will take the position as Interim Head, until his own retirement in August 2025.

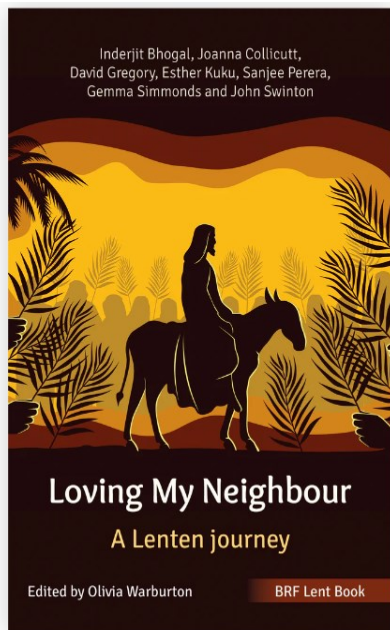
The decision was made to appoint Andrew Keep, as a vital and strategic act. It became apparent in the discussions as to the future of the school, that St Bees provides a sense of continuity and excellence, in order to drive St Bees School further forward within the growth stage – building upon its growing reputation not only across Cumbria, but also nationally and internationally.

Mr Keep has a long history with St Bees, first starting at the school in 2010, remaining with the school, undertaking many different roles, until the closure in 2015.

Andrew returned to St Bees in 2020, where he has remained an integral part of the school ever since. Not only has he successfully established a thriving Sixth Form environment from scratch; his remarkable ability to foster a stimulating and enriching atmosphere, balancing the delicate transition between teenager and adult, has made a lasting impact on the students.

Andrew's holistic approach to education aligns seamlessly with the Full Circle Education Group (who own St Bees School) ethos. He aims to provide a first-class environment for students across all areas. His passion for education extends beyond the academic realm, embracing a keen interest in sports, particularly Rugby Union, and a love for the beauty and tranquility of the Lake District.

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



**Loving my Neighbour, A Lenten Journey
Coast to Fells Mission Community Lent Course**

Lenten readings, reflections and questions considering how to love in truth, love the vulnerable and the suffering, embrace difference, care for our world, love ourselves, and love to the very end. It's never been more important to understand how much God loves us and how much he wants us to love each other. *Loving My Neighbour* takes us on a journey through the challenging terrain of how we can truly love one another, individually and in our communities. This six week course explores how we can love in truth, love the vulnerable and the suffering, embrace difference, care for our world, and love ourselves as God loves us.

With contributions from; Inderjit Bhogal, Joanna Collicutt, David Gregory, Esther Kuku, Sanjee Perera, Gemma Simmonds, John Swinton Editor: Olivia Warburton

Course dates:

Monday evenings on Zoom at 7pm

February 19th

February 26th

March 4th

March 11th

March 18th

March 25th

Wednesday midweek course at Egremont Parish Rooms at 10:30am

Feb 21st

Feb 28th

March 6th

March 13th

March 20th

March 27th

For more information contact Reverend Becky revbgibbs@outlook.com

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

This month's "Tread Gently" is from the Carlisle Diocesan News

Work has been completed on the Diocese of Carlisle's first Net Carbon Zero vicarage. Five months ago, the Diocese purchased a property in Natland, just south of Kendal, as a replacement for the village's existing Victorian vicarage. Work has since been undertaken to install a new air source heat pump, pressurised water heating system, solar panels on the roof and battery storage to improve efficiency and provide two thirds of the electricity supply, increased insulation in the roof space and new external doors. It means the Rev Canon Angela Whittaker – Helm Mission Community Leader - and her husband, Andrew, can now move into the property soon.

Nick Paxman, the Diocesan Property Manager who project managed the work, said: "We are delighted with what has been achieved. The old Victorian vicarage in the village, though charming to look at, was very expensive for us to maintain and more importantly impossibly expensive for our Vicar to heat. "We needed an answer and one which is in line with our Net Carbon challenge. So, here we've focused on removing the traditional central heating boiler – in this case fuelled by gas – and replaced it with an air source heat pump."

The monthly costs of heating the 22-year-old property will be slashed with further potential to sell on to energy providers any surplus electricity generated by the solar panels. The costs of the purchase of the newer property and the associated Net Carbon works and further renovations will be offset by the sale of the Victorian vicarage, with the Diocese investing the residue in support of future mission and ministry across the county.

It follows last October's Diocesan Synod – the local general assembly made up of bishops, archdeacons and elected clergy and laity – at which members formally endorsed the Diocesan Net Zero Action Plan. Anna Newlove, Diocesan Pastoral and Net Zero Officer, liaised with the property team as work was completed on the Net Carbon Zero vicarage. Anna said: "It is exciting to see the work that has been completed on the property and the difference that has already made to the building's energy performance. The Diocese has budgeted £250,000 a year for the next five years towards a programme of Net Carbon Zero works on various properties. The new Net Carbon Zero Natland vicarage is one of three to be developed initially. Work has also just started on Net Carbon Zero improvements at a recently purchased vicarage in Grasmere with further work scheduled on third property in Wigton at Easter.

The Bishop of Penrith, the Rt Rev Rob Saner-Haigh, said: "In line with many other dioceses in England, there are inherent challenges as we work towards the Church of England's Net Carbon Zero target date of 2030. "However, as we embrace the need to 'tread gently' - one of the key themes of our ecumenical county's God for All vision and strategy – we remain committed to doing all we can to cherish and protect God's creation. The improvement to this eco vicarage and our future schedule of works reflects this ongoing commitment."

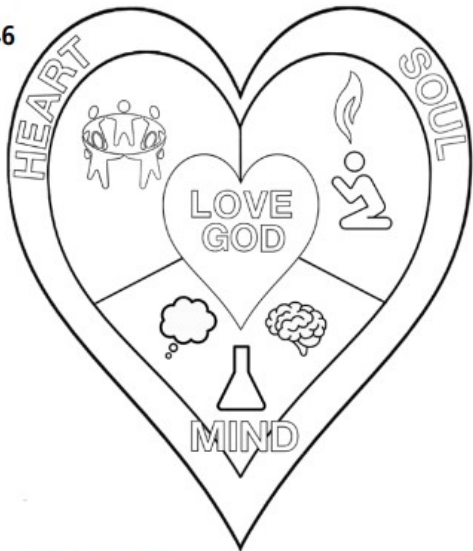
A filmed tour of our new Net Carbon Zero vicarage has been uploaded to the Diocese of Carlisle's YouTube channel.

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

Matthew 22:34-46

Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment. He replies the first is to love God, and the second is to love your neighbour.

Love God with all your heart, mind and soul.



Puzzle

Crack the code to reveal what the greatest commandment is.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14

n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

15 12 5 22 7 19 22 15 12 9 23 2 12 6 9 20 12 23

Write

Jot down how you could show love to your neighbour.

Love my neighbour

-
-
-
-

Draw

Colour the parts with a dot in to see what is revealed.

