## **St Bees Priory Church**

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge 01946 822279 or 07460 990631 revbgibbs@outlook.com The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088) Associate Priest of St Bees Priory Rural Dean of Calder

#### Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259) Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498) The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

#### **Sunday Services in Church**

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

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

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 **History Group** works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468. Area Visitor / The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Judo Club meets regularly at NCH. Contact sankaikunijudo@gmail.com or **Good Neighbour** Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Scheme name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - TBA. Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall. **Arts Society** meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at Over 60's Club meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 7.30 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394. (822584) or Chris Robson 822468. Parish Council The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Bellringing The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk, who learning to ring, contact D Sim, 18 The Crofts. Practice will answer queries on civil parish matters. Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m. meets 10 times a year. Elections are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Parochial Scouts, Beavers 1st Beckermet & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday **Church Council** Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the 6.30 - 8.30. Parish. PCC Secretary - r.e.rendell@gmailcom, 07977 096426. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New Pop-in Cafe Cubs 8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm. College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes. Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days **Pre-School** Organist (Tel. 825307). a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880. Churchwardens are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank **Priory Singers** advise on church matters. Currently Tom Kelly + 3 vacancies. Bowler. (01946) 825307. Councillor Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and Priorv Web Site The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team. St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk Tel -07840 844424 Rangers meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact **Electoral Roll** is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual calderdivision@gmail.com for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays. Fair Trade Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, Seagalls meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com Judith 07772523742 Finance The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill St Bees Triers Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system. **First Responders** provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the Village School Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497 school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram Association Football Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Village Hall Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and Association Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson. booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772). Village in Bloom Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Freemasons Parish Council contact details. Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk. Village Web Site Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or Friends of the assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk Priory its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Women's Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, Institute Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137. **Garden Society** Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

## Calendar for March 2024

1	Friday		Farmers' Market, Egremont
4	Monday	7.00 pm	St Bees Village Hall Management Committee AGM
5	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s - Do you remember 1974? - Anthony Payne
8	Friday	7.30 pm	Friends event - Gary McKee talk, Business Centre
9	Saturday	9.30 am	Making Mothers' Day Posies, Priory
10	Sunday	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Service
11	Monday	7.30 pm	WI AGM Seacote Hotel
12	Tuesday	12.15 pm	Memory & Friendship, New College hall
		7.00 pm	PCC Meeting, NCH
13	Wednesday		Railway Museum opens
14	Thursday	6.30 pm	Light Show, Priory & School Terrace
15	Friday	6.00 pm	Light Show, Priory & School Terrace
18	Monday	6,30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
24	Sunday	10.30 am	Palm Sunday Service
25	Monday	1.30 am	Village School service
		7.30 pm	Fauré's Requiem in Priory
26	Tuesday	12.15 pm	Memory & Friendship, New College hall
27	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Agape Communion Meal in NCH
28	Thursday	12.30 pm	Communion at Egremont
29	Friday	9.30 am	Good Friday Hour at the Cross, Egremont
		11.00 am	Organ Meditation with Frank Bowler in Priory
		3.30 pm	Friday Fun & Service, Priory
30	Saturday	8.00 pm	Easter Eve Vigil, Priory
31	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion

Lent Lunches - 2, 9 16 & 23 March in New College Hall - 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm All welcome.

#### Editor – April 2024

The April 2024 issue of St Bees News will be edited by Jon Mellor, Cross Hill House, Cross Hill, St Bees who would appreciate contributions not later than Friday 8 March 2024 please.

Email - Jon Mellor <jonmell@hotmail.co.uk> Tel. 01946 824936

## St Bees News

I recently received the following letter from the family of a referenced pop-star in response to my February magazine article. They have given permission for me to share this missive with you.

Dear Reverend Becky

Thank you for your recent article. It reminded me of a Lenten practise my family have engaged in for many years. We have been abstaining from using one letter of the alphabet for Lent each year, since 2004. It started as a joke, giving up "A" in 2004 and "B" in 2005, but developed into a strong family tradition. This year, one of our family members has a tough choice to make. Unlike the rest of us Astleys, Rick has made a solemn vow...

Kind regards, The Astley family

Joking aside, what is your Lenten practise? Do you give up chocolate or take up running? Donate to charity or take more time out to meditate? This year I'm supporting the Churches Together in Egremont District DIY Lent lunches by eating frugally on Thursdays, posting a pic of my lunch on their Facebook page and making a donation to charity. I am also following the daily posts from the Church of England's app for Lent, *Watch and Pray*, which, inspired by Black Spirituality, invites us to wait expectantly and go in search of new wisdom and hope.

The following was shared on Ash Wednesday...*The spiritual practice known as* "*tarrying*" is a prominent aspect of many Black - especially Pentecostal - congregations. "*Tarrying*" is a time of waiting on God which involves the whole community. It encourages us to encounter God both as individuals and together. As we wait, we pray for our own needs, as well as those of our neighbour. "*Tarrying*" also encourages us to watch, paying attention to matters we might push under the rug to deal with "another time". Doing so might feel overwhelming. But as we sit in the presence of God who looks upon us with delight, we find ourselves waiting with and for Jesus, who is familiar with our weaknesses.

What are you waiting for this Lent and who are you waiting with? I am writing to you in the week following King Charles' diagnosis and the start of his subsequent treatment for cancer. He and his family, like many of us, are waiting for treatment, waiting at a bedside, waiting for results. He, and all those waiting in this way, are in our prayers. Later in the month we celebrate Mothering Sunday and give thanks for all those who have mothered us. We pray for mums to be and mums in waiting. As the PCC consider the feedback from the congregation regarding "Prayers for Love and Faith" we pray for wisdom and grace. Whatever it is we wait and pray for, let us "tarry", watch and pray together.

With love from Reverend Becky

PS—Thanks to the support of Cumberland and St Bees Parish School and St Bees School the Priory is hosting this magnificent, immersive event for two evenings in the middle of the month. Find out more on page 10.

## **Priory** News

#### Lent & Easter Events will all be happening in March

We look forward to celebrating Mothering Sunday and Lent Lunches; and also Holy Week services in music and worship.

**Mothering Sunday service** – A special All-Age service will be held on Sunday10 March at 10.30 am with the Village Orchestra playing for us. Posies of spring flowers will be given out by the children and teens, to their mums and grans - indeed to all ladies in church and more for those at home!

**Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday** – This will happen in the priory on Saturday morning from 9.30 to 11.00 am. Do come along and help prepare the posies. If possible please bring spring flowers, or heathers and greenery too. Details from Rosalie McAndrew (tel. 01946 822326).

Weekly Lent Communion service will be held on Thursday mornings in March at 9.45 am in the Lady Chapel, before the Pop-In Café starts (now meeting in New College Hall again). All welcome to attend – on 29 Feb, and 7th, 14th, and 21st March.

#### Holy Week & Easter Services in last week of March

#### Palm Sunday service on Sunday 24 March at 10.30 am with a Procession & Palms.

Palm Crosses will be distributed to worshippers at Sunday services that day. Cross Buns and Oranges will be given out to children and teens, and anyone who wishes to partake! This is in keeping with an ancient Priory tradition, when children were required to say their catechism learned at Sunday School, to be rewarded with a 'bun & orange'!

**Monday 25 March** – Fauré's Requiem with Priory Singers & Church Choir in the Priory at 7.30 pm.

**Wednesday 27 March** – Agape Communion Meal in New College Hall at 7.00 pm. All welcome – please sign up for this on the list in church.

Maundy Thursday 28 March - Communion in Egremont Parish church at 7.00 pm.

**Good Friday** 'Hour at the Cross' on 29 March will be held in **Egremont** Parish Church at 9.30 am.

**Good Friday Organ Meditation** with organist Frank Bowler – in Priory at 11..00 am

**Saturday Easter Eve Vigil** – will be on 30 March in the Priory at 8.00 pm. Lighting the Paschal Candle.

**Easter Sunday 31 March -** Holy Communion at 9.00 am & 10.30 am. Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m.

#### Christ the Lord is risen today – Alleluia!

**Loving my Neighbour:** A Lenten Journey Feb to April 2024 – Mondays online 7-8.30pm, Wednesdays in person in Egremont parish rooms 10.30-midday commencing after half term (Starts 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6 week course)

## Parish Council News

**Planning Application – Nethertown Rd**. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications in our parish. Applications are routinely considered at the monthly meetings and comments are then forwarded to Cumberland Council which is responsible for making the decision to approve/refuse the application. The application for holiday pods on a site along Nethertown Rd has attracted a lot of interest. The Parish Council feels that this is not an appropriate site for this development as it lies outside the established settlement boundary and extends development further along a very narrow road. The Parish Council has taken specialist advice and has lodged objections to the application on a number of grounds and the matter is now awaiting a decision by Cumberland Council.

**Station Improvements** – a number of parking spaces in the upper part of Station car park have now been taken out of use to allow Network Rail's contractors to create a storage compound and provide access to the station as part of the work to raise the height of the platforms. The work is expected to last until 19 April. We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience but the platform work will improve disabled access for travellers.

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

**Coastal Art Project** – Cumberland Council has an ongoing project to instal art works in various locations along the coast to create an art trail and encourage visitors to visit coastal areas outside the Lake District National Park. The Parish Council is in discussions with Cumberland Council officers about the possibility of St Bees being one of the locations. Discussions are still at an early stage and there have been no decisions on possible sites or what type of installation would be appropriate.

Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel – Cumberland Council has set up a number of local Panels across its area, each made up of Cumberland Councillors and three community representatives. Each Panel has a budget to award grants to local groups – the criteria for awards and deadlines for applications can be found on the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel page of the Cumberland Council website (www.cumberland.gov.uk). The next meeting of the Panel covering St Bees will be on 14 March at Mirehouse Community Centre, Seathwaite Ave, Mirehouse with an open public meeting at 5pm.

**Next Parish Council Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 18 March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All council meetings are open to the public – why not come along and see the Parish Council at work?

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#### Thank you from Mothers' Union

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Tree Festival at St Bees. The money raised will buy a week's food for 10 of the families who stay in the caravan at St Bees funded by Mothers' Union and Time to Change, with support from Seacote Park. Our first family this year stayed in the February half term. Last year the project only began in June but we provided holidays for 15 families and 37 children, many of whom had never had a holiday before. With support like yours, we hope that many more families will benefit.

In term time the caravan is also available midweek. With 3 bedrooms, non-related adults could stay together. Please pass on the word if you know of anyone who needs a holiday but cannot afford one.

Thank you, Deb, on behalf of Mothers' Union, Time to change and Seacote cdmudp@gmail.com

#### From the Priory Registers

#### Holy Baptism

4 February Evelyn Hurst

#### **Christian Funeral**

14 February Edna Rayson (nee Southam)

16 February Ralston Smith (Rolly)

Whinrigg, Nethertown Road, St Bees

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

#### Priory Flower Rota in March

3 Lent – No flowers 10 Mothering Sunday posies

Lent - No flowers
Easter Day Pat Crichton
April 7 Easter Flowers

*Sincere Sympathy* is extended to the family and friends of Rolly Smith, the dearly loved husband of the late Dorothy Smith. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

*The Funeral of Joan Cunliffe of Ravensworth, Seamill Lane*, was held on 12 December at the Crematorium. Joan at the great age of 101 years had lived in St Bees for many years and was always delighted to receive Harvest and Christmas gifts from the Priory. Our thoughts are with her family – Karen, Neil, Alison and Martyn. She was much loved mother, and adored granny and great-granny.

#### Thanks

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Friday raised over £300 for the Christian Aid Gaza Crisis Appeal. Thanks to all chefs and servers.

Thanks to Susan Ashburner who has cvollected  $\pounds 83.60$  in magazine donations from Sandwith residents.





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## News from the Village School Association

Get your bunny ears ready! You're all invited to our VSA Easter Fair, to be held on the afternoon of Good Friday, the 29th of March. Based in the Village School hall, we want to invite you all to enjoy cakes and tea, crafts and games, egg hunt, a tombola and a chance to win an Easter Hamper. And new for this year is our Easter photobooth; get your best smile at the ready #StBeesBunnies.

**2024 so far**: This January and February our small committee of just 5(!) has been busy planning and organising this, and other events, for you all to enjoy, including the Bees Bash this June. While we're certainly an enthusiastic bunch, we would love to welcome more into the fray, to help with either planning, donations or your time at events. Anyone can join us – mums, dads, friends, grandparents; everyone's welcome! Volunteering is a rewarding experience, and what better way to become more connected to the school?

**Non-event fundraising**: Have you some spring/summer shopping coming up, holiday to book, food order to place? Sign up to EasyFundraising.org.uk, search for St Bees Village School Association; the cashback is donated to our school. Easy. And know that all funds raised will go back to the children, enriching their education and time at school. Having had a great first meeting with our new head, Kate Davis, we're focusing on fundraising for new outdoor toys and games. Contact us at stbees.vsa@gmail.com, and check our @stbeesvsa pages on Facebook and Instagram for event updates.





## Lent Lunches in March

You are invited to come along to New College Hall and share a tasty meal of home-made soup with bread and cheese, with friends. In aid of our chosen charities. To be held from 12 noon to 1.30 pm.

Saturday 2 March Hosts: Cath Lightfoot, Joan Wadey & team

Saturday 9 March Hosts: Gill Burgess, Bakers & Bushbys

Saturday 16 March Hosts: Sally Kennedy, Sunniva Park, Marie Kirkby & team

Saturday 23 March Hosts: Wendy Mellor, Mary McGee & team

Do join us in a good cause - two good causes in fact – and bring a friend. Donations this year will go to NSPCC (St Bees Branch) and Christian Aid Crisis Appeal for the Middle East.

#### Friends of the Priory talk

#### My Running Life by Gary McKee aka Marathon Man.

Friday 8 March at 7.30 p,m at St Bees School Management Centre, Wood Lane. Talk is free but donations to Charity welcome. To be split between Friends of the Priory and Hospice at Home.

### Railway Museum 2024 Season

The West Cumberland Railway Museum will be opening its doors to welcome allcomers again in March for its 2024 season. The first session will be from Wednesday 13th up to and including Saturday 16th March, from 10am to 4pm each day. As ever, more new items will be rotated throughout the year (as I obtain them !) - as well as a special event in the summer regarding the Flying Scotsman loco and its visits to Sellafield. The final session will again be the popular event displaying the works of local artists. I should also be shortly receiving some prints of the superb Sean Bolan painting of St Bees station, depicting it around 1900 - please contact me if you were one of those asking about them.

## St Bees Village Hall Management Committee:

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 19.00 pm in the Village Hall (Hodgetts). All welcome. New Committee members especially welcome!

## Easter eggs

Easter eggs with Fair Trade Chocolate and an Easter message for your family, friends or Foodbank. Contact Deb Lee on 01946 823470 or debleestbees@outlook.com

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## St Bees School

In a landmark moment for St Bees School, Year 13 student, Sylvia, has been offered a coveted place at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, to pursue a degree in Mathematics, starting in the upcoming Autumn Term.

This accomplishment marks a significant milestone for St Bees School, as Sylvia becomes the first student to successfully secure a place at the University of Cambridge or Oxford since the opening of the school's restructured Sixth Form merely two years ago. This year, 11% of Year 13 students at St Bees School received interviews and offers from the prestigious Oxbridge universities.

Sylvia's outstanding academic achievements, unwavering dedication, and exceptional work ethic have played a pivotal role in her success. Her passion for mathematics and commitment to excellence have not only set a standard for her peers but also serve as an inspiration to the entire school community.

Deputy Head and Head of Sixth Form, Mr Andrew Keep, expressed his admiration for Sylvia's accomplishment, stating, "Sylvia's success is a testament to her hard work, intellect, and resilience. She has demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication to her studies, and we are immensely proud to have played a part in her academic journey. This achievement is not only a reflection of Sylvia's capabilities but also highlights the quality of education provided at St Bees School."

Headmaster, Mr Robin Silk, echoed these sentiments, stating, "Sylvia's acceptance into Peterhouse College, Cambridge, is a momentous occasion for St Bees School. It showcases the academic excellence that our institution strives to foster. Sylvia's success is a source of pride for the entire school community, and we are

confident that she will continue to excel in her academic pursuits at Cambridge. This achievement is a testament to the dedicated faculty and supportive environment that St Bees School offers to its students."

Sylvia's journey is a beacon of inspiration for current and future students at St Bees School, underscoring the institution's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering academic success.

## Friends of the Priory Report February 2024

Concert by Egremont Town Band has been arranged for Friday 17 May in the Priory.

**The next Committee meeting** will be held on Wednesday 28 February in New College Hall at 7.00 pm.

Subscriptions for Friends membership are now due for 2024 -  $\pm 10$  for individual;  $\pm 15$  for a family. Pleas pay or send to the Friends Treasurer Norman Killip – cash, cheque or BACS. Thankyou all.



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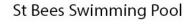
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come into St. Bees was on a package from Dr. Arnold of Rugby (think Tom Brown's Schooldays). It contained the sermon for our Vicar to preach on the next Sunday; following which a whole series of two-penny sermons would arrive or leave quite regularly.

'Ours is a widely dispersed village, which adds complexity to delivering the mail'. These are the words of a Mrs. Southem(?), recorded some years after "Stump" Walker's death;

"The postmen and women walked their rounds. They delivered all over – Loughrigg, Wangs, Watson Hill, Gill. Tommy Lyons delivered the letters west of the station, to Rottington. In general Stump did all the village. And Bramble Queen went round by St. Bees Moor, and could be seen most days coming down the High Road, doing her knitting".

(I wonder, can someone tell us more about 'Bramble Queen', or how she came by that name? The village already had a 'Biskie Queen', selling biscuits from a barrow up and down Main Street).

Bob Jopling, Local History Group

### The Fred Whitton and Me

By way of introduction, The Fred Whitton Challenge, or The Fred as it is affectionately known, is one of the most gruelling cycling sportives in the UK. Cycling Weekly magazine dubbed The Fred, "The Daddy of them all" because of its difficulty. Despite this, every year, around 2500 cyclists sign up to take part in this 112 mile sportive around the Lake District which starts and ends in Grasmere, and takes in the climbs of Kirkstone, Honister, Newlands, Whinlatter, Cold Fell, Hardknott, Wrynose and Blea Tarn passes. Those cyclists who enter The Fred are encouraged to raise money for charity. Those cyclists who complete The Fred (there are timed cut off points) get a certificate and a real sense of achievement.

Sadly, no eBikes are allowed on The Fred, it is down to your lung power, your leg power and your will power as you tackle gradients of 15%, 20%, 25% and 30%.

I have helped out at The Fred for several years now, encouraging fellow cyclists at Hardknott Pass or helping out at the last feed station at Calder Bridge, where I poured water into water bottles, dished out smile after smile, and searched for the right reassuring words for each individual cyclist. This year, for many reasons, I decided I could no longer shy away from entering and completing The Fred.

My date with destiny is the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024. It would be brilliant if you could support me on the day or during my 3 month training plan, the first 3 weeks of which have set off on the wrong foot due to me being diagnosed with an upper and lower lung infection followed by a perforated eardrum. If you could sponsor me too, that would be awesome. My chosen charity is Macmillan because they are always there for you no matter what, and everybody knows somebody whose lives have been ripped inside out by cancer.

Kelvin M. Knight, Saint Bees

JustGiving webpage for donations: <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/KelvinKnightfw2024">www.justgiving.com/fundraising/KelvinKnightfw2024</a>

## Lunga went to a party.

Hello. Lunga here. Wow! Have you ever been to a party? We had one when we were all 21 (well three really - you know 3x7=21!). Our birth mammy Isla sent us all a singing birthday card with dogs playing lots of music - nice tune. Our brother Bear, who went to Manchester, was invited but couldn't make it. The famous 5 and their mammy all went to the party. There were my sisters Betsy and Maisie, my brothers Buddy and Floyd and our mammy, as well as myself of course. We had space to run around outside. Buddy even tried the seesaw, but I thought it looked a bit frightening. Inside there were lots of toys, and a ball pool, and a tunnel, and lots of sofas for a rest - phew! We had lots of treats and even la'al birthday cakes with bones on - mammy took the paper off mine - she needn't have bothered! Then a lady came with a camera and so more treats and lots of smiles for the camera. As we left, we all had a little party bag. We were all cream-crackered at the end, but it was great fun. When's the next one?

Bye for now. Lunga and his mammy.

Claire Summers.

## **Telephone Scams**

There has been a spate of very authentic-sounding scam phone calls recently, linked to "genuine" looking emails and texts claiming to be from BT. The caller is usually an oriental-sounding lady who seems to be in a call centre and who claims that you need to do something to secure your internet connection, and she can help. This is pure scam, but very well done, as are the texts and emails again claiming to be from BT and including a "security" number. Don't be fooled! If you tell the caller it's not convenient but you'll ring them back they disconnect straight away. I used "1471" after my call, and the number that came back seemed real, so I rang it out of curiosity, and found myself speaking to Bournemouth Borough Council offices!

Needless to say, they had NOT just rung me! If anyone is in doubt about something, BT are very helpful, and their Help Line is 0330 1234 150. *Neil Bettinson* 

#### WI News

Our February meeting was held a week later than advertised, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, due to various road closures around the village. We welcomed Tony Calvin, talking on "Bees and Bee Keeping". Our next meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at the Seacote Hotel. We have our Annual General Meeting, we will be looking back at some of our events held in 2023, and looking ahead to what's in store for 2024, followed by a General Knowledge Quiz, plus refreshments and raffle. Do join us: visitors £4, new members most welcome. Please see our Facebook page - www.St-Bees-WI-facebook.

## Over 60s Club

Welcome to the new year for Over 60s. We start our year off with a talk by Mr Anthony Payne on "Do you remember 1974?" on March 5th at 2pm in Hodgetts club. As this is our first meeting, we will be collecting our subs for the year which will be 15 pounds. We will be holding an Easter Bingo on March 19, also in Hodgetts club at 2pm. Looking forward to seeing you all. *Gill Richardson* 

## Light District Event at St Bees Priory



A new Light District event has been lined up by Cumberland Council and will be held at St Bees Priory on the evenings of Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March.

#### There will be time slots between 6.30pm and 9pm each evening.

Tickets for Space: God, The Universe and Everything - a spectacular sound and light show - are now on sale for £4 at St Bees Post Office and online at <u>discovercarlisle.co.uk</u>

In addition to the Light Show in the Priory, across the road on St Bees School Terrace (or Memorial Hall if weather unkind) there will be a small food, drink and craft market with two hot food options and a small bar selling alcoholic and soft drinks. There will also be a gazebo as part of the market, where there will be history of Priory talks.

There will be acoustic live music.

We will be limited St Bees School car park to 50 cars only. Once full, we will be directing vehicles to the Beach Front Car park. Please consider car sharing or walking.

The Light Show is inspired by the 1969 Moon landings. Created by the award-winning Luxmuralis artistic collaboration, it will take people on a walking journey through St Bees Priory, revealing the universe, galaxies, space, creation, and light through a variety of sound and light installations that will transform the Priory.

The Light District builds on the success of Carlisle and Workington Light Shows.

## **Turning the Air Blue**

"Best to steer clear of the Post Office before breakfast" advised old Beth Sewell - "that Herbie's language near enough turns the air blue".

Herbie was the son of James Graham the village Postmaster. Following one of the long- awaited overhauls of the Postal System in Victorian times, the Graham's shoe-shop in Main Street (now number 121) had begun to double as the village Post Office. Often St. Bees people excused Herbie's surliness and swearing because they knew his whole life had been a battle with disabling deafness.

Much of our knowledge of Old St. Bees is due to the initiative of the late Dr. John Todd. He and his team saw that if elderly residents' conversations could be recorded in some way, they would be a rich source for local history. I am grateful to Jackie Walker and like-minded people who have ensured over the years that such glimpses of Old St. Bees have not been lost.



James Graham, St Bees Postmaster

Someone well used to Herbie's swearing would have

been Isaac 'Stump' Walker. Based at the Graham's he had long been the village postman. Despite delivering around the village for longer than many could r emember, his official status had been always 'temporary'. Past issues of this magazine have recounted how Isaac trudged our roads for eight miles a day, for six days a week, for fifty weeks a year - for fifty years and more. That, the newspaper calculated, was not much short of five times round the equator. And when at the end he retired, it had not earned him a pension.



Isaac was known to all as 'Stump' Walker, because he had no left hand. I was told when I visited his grand -niece, that he had lost it as a toddler through falling into the fire. Later 'Stump' was to be known around the district for his unusual skills with darts, and dominoes, and card games. The papers show him as an accomplished gardener too, scooping many of the prizes at nearby Village Shows.

There were, of course, others in St. Bees delivering the mail. For some while, James Graham insisted that only he should handle the Vicar's post, or anything addressed to the Head of the Public School. There is a story that when the newest version of the two-penny 'black' postage stamp was issued, the first one to

Isaac "Stump" Walker



## Tread Gently

**Parish consultation—the future of sustainable housing for the vicar in St Bees** The parish consultation on the vicarage was held on Wednesday 7th February, led by Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe and with the Diocesan surveyor, Neal Andrews, also in attendance. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting with attendees initially sharing ideas for modifying the vicarage to achieve net carbon zero by 2030, such as internal insulation. Many attendees asked several questions to Stewart and Neal, such as whether specific surveys had been conducted on the vicarage and also how the complex nature of adjoining building and land would be handled if sale of property proceeded. The result of this stage of the consultation was Neal Andrews agreeing to a full survey to be conducted on the vicarage to provide specific details of property to be more energy efficient in order to facilitate the next stage of discussion. *Rebecca Rendell* 



#### The Memory Café

Last winter the Priory was the venue for a warm hub to help people with the cost-ofliving crisis and provided a place for socialising, necessary for some after COVID-19. This year the idea has evolved into the Memory Café. There is provision every fortnight at a rugby club in Whitehaven that is very well attended. On the other Tuesdays we are providing a similar event. It is 12.15pm to 13.45pm in New College Hall - we made use of the priory when the hall could not be used. There is soup and a roll, provided by St Bees school in term time and local pubs and hotels in the holidays, so thanks to all the places who donate delicious soup. We also provide a hot drink, a biscuit and sometimes fruit. There may be pictures to look at and reminisce about, dominoes and cards to play or simple entertainment. Carols were popular just before Christmas and various musical activities jog memories with other activities stimulating the mind. The cohort of attendees, so far numbering seventeen, comes from a wide area including Whitehaven, Seascale, Cleator Moor and Frizington. The carers appreciate the social interaction, and the clients seem to enjoy meeting their friends and participating in the activities. We therefore provide a warm welcome in a warm space with a warm drink like the warm hub but also social activities. Anyone from the village who feels this could offer something to them please come along and join in. The dates for March are 12th and 27th.There is a charge of £2 per client with the carers going free. You would get a very warm welcome. Claire Summers

## Tread Gently



**On Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Farmers' Market in Egremont**, the refreshments will be raising money for *Transform Trade- so everyone benefits*. Please come along or offer to help to support this amazing organisation! If we can raise £350 then a community in Bangladesh will be able to open a community-owned shop. These local shops are not only providing accessible goods but are challenging gender norms. Women can now aspire to become self-sufficient. It takes 30 families to buy into the shop (our £350 is half the cost). It becomes a social centre as well as enabling a more equal future for the villagers and the women.

Transform Trade also supports Farmers to cope with climate change and to work cooperatively to get better prices. Growth in agriculture is 2.5x more effective at decreasing poverty than any other sector. Almost a third of the world's population works in agriculture. So you money goes to good use to lift people out of poverty.

Did you know that picked tea has to reach the factory within 4 hours or the leaves become worthless? Did you know that the majority of the world's food needs are produced by small scale farmers, but they are not only increasingly vulnerable to climate change but vulnerable to big business lobbying. Take seeds for example. Local farmers know the seeds that are best for their soil. The right for farmers to choose their own seeds is under threat. The UK government is pressurising countries in the Global south to introduce restrictive seed laws and already has 21 trade agreements that promote these laws. It is now law in Kenya that farmers have to buy costly certified seeds from certified companies (Just 4 corporate giants). This replaces local knowledge and biodiversity with mass market seeds that are often designed to be used with harmful and expensive fertilisers and pesticides. Transform Trade is supporting communities to create community seed banks. Over the last 3 years the world's 5 richest men doubled their wealth while 5 billion people became poorer. Things like these seed laws will just increase that imbalance. We need to Transform Trade for the benefit of people and planet.

You can be part of the change, come along to Egremont Farmers' market on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>





#### A Vision for the Churches in Cumbria



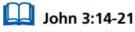
We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both timehonoured & pioneering ways.

Friday Fun and Families on Good Friday.



Friday Fun will be slightly different on Friday 29th March as this is also Good Friday. The session will start at 3.30pm (instead of the usual 4.30pm). At

5.15pmnthere will be a short service, based on the stations of the cross, to which everyone is invited, followed by Hot cross buns (made by the Friday Funners!)



God sent Jesus into the world to save it and wants us to live in his light.



Nicodemus learns about the light from Jesus.

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