

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk)  
Priory Secretary - [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto: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 - Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.

.DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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## St Bees Parish A B C

<b>Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	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.	<b>Garden Society</b>	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 07742 440919). Flower Show is held on 3rd Saturday in August.
<b>Aikido club.</b>	Adult martial art classes in St Bees, Mon., Tues. & Thu each week. See <a href="http://www.westcumbriaaikido.com">www.westcumbriaaikido.com</a> or contact Adrian on 07951 999 192.	<b>History Group</b>	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Bellringing</b>	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.	<b>Judo Club</b>	meets regularly at NCH. Contact <a href="mailto:sankaikunijudo@gmail.com">sankaikunijudo@gmail.com</a> or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
<b>Scouts, Beavers</b>	1st Beckermet & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall 8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	<b>Over 60's Club</b>	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
<b>Cubs</b>	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.	<b>Parish Council</b>	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email <a href="mailto:pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk">pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk</a> , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
<b>Choir</b>	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).	<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	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 - <a href="mailto:r.e.rendell@gmail.com">r.e.rendell@gmail.com</a> , 07977 096426.
<b>Churchwardens</b>	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Churchwardens are Deb Lee & Gill Barlow (& 2 Vacancies)	<b>Pop-in Cafe</b>	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
<b>Councillor</b>	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. <a href="mailto:Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk">Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk</a> Tel -07840 844424	<b>Pre-School</b>	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.
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church	<b>Priory Web Site</b>	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk">http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk</a>
<b>Fair Trade</b>	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - <a href="mailto:lee535877@aol.com">lee535877@aol.com</a>	<b>Rangers</b>	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact <a href="mailto:calderdivision@gmail.com">calderdivision@gmail.com</a> for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
<b>Finance</b>	The Church Treasurer is Gabrielle Kane, 102 Main Street, St Bees, CA27 0AD.who will explain our Christian Giving system.	<b>Seagalls</b>	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
<b>First Responders</b>	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497	<b>St Bees Triers</b>	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email <a href="mailto:running@triers.co.uk">running@triers.co.uk</a> Tel. 823497 Web <a href="http://www.triers.co.uk">www.triers.co.uk</a>
<b>Football Association</b>	Contacts - Juniors (U-12) - Aaron with the number 07902311306 .	<b>Village School Association</b>	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : <a href="mailto:stbees.vsa@gmail.com">stbees.vsa@gmail.com</a> or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
<b>Freemasons</b>	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 07897 535100 or <a href="http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk">www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk</a> .	<b>Village Hall</b>	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
<b>Friends of the Priory</b>	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,	<b>Village in Bloom</b>	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
		<b>Village Web Site</b>	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or <a href="mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk">imcandrew@stbees.org.uk</a> Address is <a href="http://www.stbees.org.uk">http://www.stbees.org.uk</a>
		<b>Women's Institute</b>	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. See <a href="http://www.St-Bees-WI-Facebook-pages">www.St-Bees WI Facebook pages</a> or contact any member.

## Calendar for March 2025

2	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
4	Tuesd	12.00 - 1.30 pm	Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday in NCH
	Tuesday	1.30 pm	Over 60s Club, Hodgetts Club
	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Seagalls "Women's Health" in the Seacote
7	Friday	7.30 pm	Friends of the Priory: Talk - Peter Rooke, NCH
9	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
11	Tuesday	12.- 2.00pm	Memory Café, NCH
		7.00 pm	PCC Meeting, NCH
13	Thursday	9.45 - 10.15	Quiet Communion in the Lady Chapel
15	Saturday	10.15 am – 3.00 pm	Fairtrade AGM and event, Village Hall
16	Sunday	10.30 pm	Holy Communion
17	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village hall
18	Tuesday	2.00 pm	Over 60s, Village hall Club
20	Thursday	9.45 - 10.15	Quiet Communion in the Lady Chapel
22	Saturday	12.00 - 1.30 pm	Lent Lunch in NCH
		7.30 pm	"Cabaret" in Village Hall
23	Sunday	10.30 pm,	Morning Worship
25	Tuesday	12.00 - 2.00	Memory Café, NCH
27	Thursday	9.45 - 10.15 am	Quiet Communion in the Lady Chapel
29	Saturday	9.30 – 11 am	Posy-making for Mothering Sunday
		12.00 - 1.30 pm	Lent Lunch in NCH
30	Sunday	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Service in the Priory

### Calendar for April

14 /15 /16 Children's Workshops in Village hall

## April Editor

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

**Email—jonmell@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 01946 824936**

## St Bees News

March 2025

Looking back through old St Bees letters I found this one from five years ago...it made me smile and it's as relevant now as it was then.

Lent is traditionally a time to give something up or start something new. For the next six weeks many of us will be abstaining from chocolate or practising a new healthy habit. This year I'm going to try mindfulness, the art of paying attention to the present moment, and here's why.

Imagine the scene, it's Sunday afternoon and I'm about to go to St Michaels, Arlecdon, to take their Family Service. I discover that I need to buy ingredients for Josh's cookery lesson but it's OK I've got time, I'll stop off at the petrol station on the way, I need fuel anyway. With my eye on the clock I drive to Egremont, fill up the car with diesel, rush into the shop, then discover they don't have the ingredients I need. But all is well, the Co-op provides and I make it to Arlecdon with minutes to spare.

The next day I receive a call from the Diocesan Office. "Did I happen to go a petrol station yesterday?" asks my curious colleague. "It's just that a woman, wearing a dog collar, was caught on CCTV driving off without paying for fuel. We guessed it must be you".

It turns out that if you shop for cookery ingredients, do your job and try to buy fuel at the same time you risk not paying attention. Fortunately, the diocese and the petrol station saw the funny side, I was forgiven and "Vicar Steals Diesel" didn't appear as a headline in the Whitehaven News.

We are all absent minded from time to time, especially when he have a lot going on, ever gone upstairs and forgotten why you're there? Sometimes this is simple sign of old age\*. Other times it's because we're attempting to do too many things at once and it's time to stop. So this Lent I will be stopping and paying attention, practising the art of mindfulness. And when I think about it, it's a highly appropriate habit to take up during these weeks, as Jesus is probably the most mindful person I've ever encountered. He spent 40 days in a desert being attentive to his circumstances, facing his demons, preparing his mind and body for what lay ahead. From that day on he was completely present for every person he met and situation he endured...pretty impressive.

My aims in life are not quite as lofty as those of Jesus or even the saints that followed him, right now I just want to get through life without getting sacked or arrested as a result of my absent mindedness. But as the weeks go by maybe you and I will engage in a Lenten practise that takes us to a higher state of being and makes us more present for friends and family. Or maybe we'll just remember what we went upstairs for. Either way, it's worth a try.

*With love from*

*Reverend Becky*

## *Priory News*

**Lent Events** will be held in March & April; Easter events in April this year.

We look forward to celebrating Mothering Sunday in March; Lent lunches start on 22nd March. See page 9.

**Mothering Sunday service** – A special All-Age service will be held on Sunday 30th March at 10.30 am with the Village Orchestra accompanying the hymns.

Posies of spring flowers will be presented by the children to their mums and grans- indeed to all the ladies in church, and also for those at home!

**Posy-Making for Mothering Sunday** – This will happen in the Priory on Saturday morning of 29th March from 9.30 to 11.00 am. All welcome to lend a hand and please bring spring flowers, heathers and greenery. Please contact Barbara Hewetson for details.

**Ash Wednesday - 5 March** - 11.00 am Holy Communion St Bees Priory

**Quiet Holy Communions on Thursday mornings in Lent** – these will be held in the Lady Chapel from 9.45 to 10.15 am before the Pop-In Cafe. All welcome to attend – held on 13th March, 20th March, 27th March, 3rd April, 10th April.

**Lent Course ‘Women of Holy Week by Paula Gooder’** will be held on five Thursday afternoons in Meeting Pace, Egremont 1, 15 pm to 2.45 pm – on 13th, 20th & 27th March; also 3rd & 10th & 24th April.

**Lent Course on Zoom**—Tuesdays from 11th March until 8<sup>th</sup> April, then one more on the 22nd from 7-8.30pm Women of Holy Week Lent Course on Zoom

**Agape Meal** - Wednesday in Holy Week - 16th April 7.00 pm Agape Meal in New College Hall

**Sincere Sympathy** is extended to the family and friends mourning the sad loss of John Brannon of Seacroft Drive, whose funeral was held at the Crematorium on 18 February. Thinking of his wife Mary. Much loved and always remembered. Donations to St Bees RNLI.

## *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day*

This charity fundraiser is planned for Tuesday 4th March in New College Hall from 12 noon to 1.30pm. Savoury and sweet pancakes will be served with a choice of fillings! All welcome.

In aid of our chosen charity – see posters.

## *Parish Council News*

**Parking on Sea Mill Lane** – there have been problems in recent weeks with bin lorries not being able to reach properties at the bottom of Sea Mill Lane because of parked vehicles. We would ask drivers to ensure that vehicles do not obstruct large vehicles, particularly on bin collection days.

**Anti Social Behaviour** – there have been incidents of graffiti at the main beach area and also at the station. If anyone witnesses any incidents or notices any graffiti or damage, please report it to the police as soon as possible. The police need to be aware of incidents, however minor, to build up a picture of the situation.

**Parking near the Village School** – there are continuing problems with vehicles being parked on double yellow lines around the Main Street/Seacroft Drive junction, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day. This poses a danger to pedestrians, including children going to/coming from school. Cumberland Council’s Enforcement Team and the local PCSO have been asked to visit more regularly.

**Footpaths-** Cumberland Council’s contractors have done some work to improve the coastal footpath at Sea Mill which has often been flooded. A temporary closure order has been made to allow improvement work to take place on the footpath from Scalebarrow to Rottington. We understand that some clearance work will take place on the coastal path between St Bees and Couderton.

**Coast to Coast Passport Project** – a not-for-profit group based in Richmond, North Yorkshire, has set up a project to create a Coast to Coast passport which those undertaking the walk can buy and use to record their progress. Businesses and organisations along the route have agreed to take part, stamping passports as people arrive at the various locations. The organisation leading the project has support from local authorities along the route and is contacting businesses in our area to explain the project and enlist their support in publicising the passport, acting as a stamping station etc. If anyone is interested and would like more information, please contact the Clerk who can provide contact details for the organisers of the project.

**Outrigg Play Area-** The Parish Council is in discussion with Cumberland Council to secure a lease on the land on which the play equipment stands. The lack of a formal lease is preventing the Parish Council from applying for grant funding to renovate the area. Until the lease is finalised, the Parish Council will continue to repair the old equipment to keep the area in use.

**Dog fouling & waste bags** – Please help us to keep the village free of dog fouling. Remember to clean up after your dog and ensure that dog waste bags are disposed of in a bin and not left on verges or hedges. Any litter bin can be used for these bags.

**Litter bin** – The new wall mounted litter bin has been installed on the Post Office wall after the old bin was damaged by a vehicle.

**Next meeting-** The next meeting will be on Monday 17 March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

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## ***Making the world fairer! March 15th Village Hall***

On Saturday 15th March the village hall is hosting the Cumbria Fair Trade Network AGM. The day starts with Refreshments at 10.15 and the AGM is at 10.45.

At 11.00 am Dominic Partridge from Transform Trade will appraise us of what the charity is doing to advocate for farmers. This will be followed at 11.45 by Sarah Weightman sharing what the Co-op does to share wealth.

Lunch will be provided 12:15 to 13:15 along with an opportunity to buy some fair trade products.

At 13.15 Dominic Partridge will explain about the farmers' sponsorship projects, that we have raised money to support in Tanzania.

From 14:00 to 15:00 you will be able to hear updates from local groups around Cumbria.

It would be lovely to see you! You can pop in and out for the bits that interest you most, probably 11-2pm!

Share the Easter story with a Fair Trade Easter Egg

About the Real Easter Egg

The Original and Dark eggs include a 24 page Easter story-activity book. They are Palm Oil and plastic free, and include a competition. The Fun Pack has an Easter story activity poster and 6 milk chocolate eggs. The large Eggs are £5.50 and the fun packs of 6 are £6. You can also buy eggs for the Food Bank (10% less). Please sign up on the order form at the back of church or contact Deb Lee 823470 [debleestbees@outlook.com](mailto:debleestbees@outlook.com)

*Deb Lee Co-Chair Cumbria Fair Trade Network*

## ***Priory Flower Rota in March***

2	Flower Fund	9	Lent – No flowers
16	Lent – No flowers	23	Lent – No flowers
30	Mothering Sunday Posies – Volunteers		

## ***Claiming Dates***

**West Cumberland Choral Society Concert** - on Saturday 5 April in the Priory. All welcome to attend.

**Stainer's Crucifixion Oratorio** will be performed on Maundy Thursday 17 April in the Priory.

All choristers are invited to take part.

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**Local Councillor**  
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**Cllr Graham Minshaw**

Cumberland Councillor for  
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## *A Letter from Michelle Proctor*

I have just returned from a two day trip to Solwezi, 112 miles away from Mukinge. The road is deteriorating and what used to take two hours now takes three and a half! Some of the road has been fixed but as fast as they fix it other parts get worse. In some places it's easier to drive on the dirt beside the road; some you just have to stop and decide which pothole looks like it will cause least damage to your car.

There is not a lot between Mukinge and Solwezi, but the countryside is beautiful and there is an array of things you can buy from the roadside including mangos, watermelons, tomatoes, charcoal by the sack full, blackmarket petrol and raw honey in 2.5 litre containers. You always pass a lorry or two that has broken down, the drivers camp next to their vehicle while waiting for someone to come and fix it or a spare part to arrive, often they are there for days.

Solwezi itself is a busy, rapidly expanding mining town close to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is the provincial and administrative capital of North Western Province and the nearest place to us with a supermarket. The main street is chaotic with lots of vehicles including mining trucks, busses, cars, motorbikes, men pushing wheelbarrows and the occasional goat. Side roads are mostly dirt with water filled holes. My reason for going was to renew my car insurance, pay road tax for next year, and get my car's annual "fitness test". I spent a lot of the time in queues in offices, shops and to get money out of the ATM, experience has taught me to carry a book to read for those extra-long queues. As I shopped for food to last until I next go to a supermarket (February) the supermarket was full of people with full trolleys and I was struck by the huge gap between the haves and the have nots here in Zambia.

The recent drought has meant that many do not have enough to eat this year and because they had no maize to sell last season, they can't afford fertilizer to grow this year's maize. The malnutrition side of the children's ward is full to overflowing and we have had several children die from malnutrition recently. It is always hard to see a child die from something that is preventable and to have that sense of helplessness at not being able to prevent it or change the outcome. However, I have to remind myself that for every child that dies many more go home. One such child was admitted with severe malnutrition and anaemia needing three blood transfusions during his stay. There were several evenings when I went home not expecting to see him in the morning but with lots of care he recovered and went home. The good news is that this season's rains have started, and people have planted their crops which are growing. We pray that the rains will continue, and next year's harvest will be a good one.

Looking ahead, next year it is time for my Home Assignment again. I plan to be in the UK from April to September and am looking forward to seeing many of you and visiting supporting churches. Let me know if you want to get together.

With love from Michelle. (Missionary Nurse) (December 2024)

Mukinge Hospital, PO Box 120092, Kasempa, Zambia Email:  
michelle.proctor@sim.org Mobile and WhatsApp: +260 977719486

## *Village School and VSA News*

We have been very busy, not only in class but also with our school trips and sporting events, amongst other things.

Year 1 finally got to go to Whinlatter after we originally had to cancel due to weather conditions. Even though the rain was still relentless, the children had lots of fun looking for early signs of Spring. They spent time in the Yurt, said "hello" to the Gruffalo and were even lucky enough to spot a frog upon arrival!

We've had many groups go out to competitions this half term including Key Steps gymnastics at Whitehaven Academy. Our pupils did us proud and finished 3rd overall. We also had a group of Year 5/6 and Year 1/2 students attending a multi-skills event where they had the opportunity to try out a variety of different sports including basketball, throwing/catching and curling. We are looking forward to our pupils taking part in many more sporting events in the upcoming months.

During Children's Mental Health Week, the children had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities to support their mental wellbeing. Classes took part in Forest School sessions led by Mrs Cooper, we had Mr Bettinson and friends from the village who provided an afternoon of live music, and Reception class visited the Community Cafe to give members of the community gifts of a small plant pot and spring bulb. Year 6 will be visiting our Over 60's club in March to entertain them with songs and conversation!

Years 5 and 6 had a hair-raising experience at the St Bees School Science Fair. They participated in a range of scientific activities including static electricity and combining acid, metal and a flame to make loud popping noises. Thank you to St Bees School!

### **Village School Association**

Spring is nearly here, and our calendar of events of the school year is slowly filling up. From the Easter Fair and Easter Village Trail, through to the St Bees Bash, the VSA team have been beavering away, planning and organising ourselves, to understand what additional events we're able to put on with our small committee of just five.

Our aim is to put on events for the children and community to enjoy, and any funds raised alongside that is a bonus.

At our AGM in January (notes can be found on our Facebook page @stbeesvsa), we reviewed the previous year and are very pleased to report that due to the fairs and events, workshops, preloved sales and Village trails we made a little over £4100. A massive achievement – all that effort was worth it.

We've been able to treat the children recently, as previously shared, and having met with the school head and staff we have plenty of new event ideas, and ways to spend funds to enhance the children's school experience even more. All of this wouldn't be possible without the support of the school staff, parents and community, so thank you for supporting us!

Check out the VSA's Facebook/Instagram pages for event and school updates @stbeesvsa. Email: stbees.vsa@gmail.com.. And the St Bees Bash page too – being held on Saturday 31st May 2025! See you there *Jaime Lowrey (VSA Chair)*



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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/>



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## *St Bees Village Hall*

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in our latest event, a 'Celtic Shindig', on 25th January. It was an excellent, fun evening and we raised over £700 towards the upkeep of our Village Hall.

We have more events planned, so please put these dates in your diaries!

The Bar will be available at most of the following events:

22nd March at 7.30 - 'Cabaret' with supper, featuring the Hodgett Singers, performing a repertoire of Gershwin and Rodgers and Hart.

12th April at 2pm - 'Easter Surprise' - in flowers. Norma Halpin, a well known Florist from Barrow-in-Furness, demonstrates flower arranging with a Fair Trade Afternoon Tea, using our lovely new china.

27th April at 7.30 is an Arts Out West Show - 'An evening with Anne Marie Sanderson' a singer and songwriter.

10th May - VE Day 80th anniversary on the 8th May. Time and details to be announced.

31st May at 7.30 An Arts Out West Show 'The Great Baldini's Magic Cabaret'.

7th June at 7pm 'Just in Time', a Glenn Miller style, big band, foot tapping music to dance to!

Children's music workshops to be held in the village hall on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th April - singing excerpts from 'The Sound of Music' - the film that celebrates its opening 60 years ago on 2nd March 1965.

If you are interested in joining these workshops, for children aged 7-11 years, and for more information - email: [eileenlithgow@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenlithgow@hotmail.com)

The last day will feature a Sing-Along of all the songs rehearsed, with adults invited to participate.

Our much-loved building needs essential repairs. After the ladies' toilet ceiling collapsed last year, damp, the weather and age have all taken their toll. Estimates for the repairs total around £60,000. The Village Hall Committee is working hard applying for grants and organising events.

Please support us in any way you can.

For tickets and information contact:

Claire Hale - 07740717481 or Val Turpin - 07857008462

### **From page 16**

hardened sugar syrup. The Tanghulu went down a storm, and when paired with refreshing iced tea, it was a perfect treat for everyone.

The day was a wonderful celebration of the Lunar New Year, filled with laughter, learning, and joy. We rang in the Year of the Snake in style, creating lasting memories and deepening our connections with Chinese culture. The celebration was a true testament to the spirit of St Bees School and its commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity.

## ***St Bees School Chinese New Year Celebration 2025***

We had dancing, singing, drama, delicious food, crafts, confetti cannons, and more at our special all-day Chinese New Year celebration.

On the morning of January 29th, St Bees School was filled with excitement as we started to celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Snake. Nearly 200 primary school children from six different local schools, ranging from Years 5 and 6, joined us for a day packed with cultural performances and fun activities.

Our Year 8 students performed an awesome show called The Legend of Nian. The show was both educational and entertaining, depicting an ancient Chinese myth about the terrifying monster Nian and how the people outsmarted and befriended it. The students brought the legend to life with impressive acting and storytelling, captivating the young audience. The stunning dragon head, which was made by Mr Bertram using boxes and colourful electrician tape, looked incredible. Our Year 8 student Kal made the dragon come alive, parading it through the audience with enthusiasm and energy.

Another of the performance highlights was the traditional Chinese dance performance by senior students Charlotte, Amisha, and Amelia. The girls wore traditional costumes and their movements were graceful and beautiful, showcasing the elegance and cultural richness of Chinese dance.

Miss Chen and our Chinese students played a vital role in the celebration, leading various activity stations that allowed everyone to explore Chinese culture. One station offered a hands-on experience in creating blue and white ceramic plate designs. Another popular station was the paper lantern-making. Additionally, there was a paper-cutting station where students learned the art of creating intricate designs with paper. We had a spring roll-tasting station, where many students tried a spring roll. However, the real fun came with the chopstick challenge. This game tested participants' ability to use chopsticks to pick up small sweets and treats, and it quickly became a favourite.

Acting Head Mr Gribble was enthusiastic in teaching everyone how to say Happy New Year in Chinese with a giant explosion of confetti from various cannons! The phrase, Xīnnián kuàilè (新年快乐), was repeated throughout the day including when Year 10 student Lucy led everyone in a celebratory dance, getting everyone on their feet and in high spirits. It was a joyous moment that united everyone in the celebration.

At lunchtime, the school catering team, led by Julie, served a delicious Chinese spread in the dining room. Students and teachers enjoyed dishes like fried rice, noodles, crispy sweet and sour chicken, and beef in black bean sauce, providing a true taste of China.

In the evening, the celebration culminated with the third and final performances of the day. This time, the shows were for St Bees School students, their parents, and the local community. It was an opportunity to showcase the hard work of our students and bring together the school with the wider community. In addition to the performances, there was an added stall run by the Enterprise students, Lucy and Aosong. They cooked and sold traditional Tanghulu, a popular Chinese street food consisting of fruit dipped in

## ***Lent Lunches in March & April***

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. To be held from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

Saturday 22 March Hosts: Joan Wadey, Cath Lightfoot & team

Saturday 29 March Hosts: Wendy Mellor & team

Saturday 5 April Hosts: Gill Burgess, Bakers & Bushbys

Saturday 12 April Hosts: Sally Kennedy & team

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

## ***Sleeping Child Garden***

The Garden was created in 2006 as a memorial to children lost in infancy and was the idea of the late Josefina de Vasconcellos, the noted Lakeland sculptor. In its early years, maintenance was carried out by a range of volunteers, but since Covid lockdowns, and other reasons, this has become difficult. As a result, particularly of lockdowns and unhelpful weather, it had become very overgrown and drastic treatment became necessary.

Due to this work, and the time of the year, it currently does not look very attractive but planned work and new plantings during March/April, as well as anticipated new (and controlled) growth will restore the Garden further.

We are grateful to a generous donation of £2,000 from the Friends of the Priory which has funded a new fence and will fund new plants to fill the gaps. The Priory funded other necessary work. The erection of the new fence by volunteers, mainly from the Holy Mowers rather than professionals has helped the finance. We must also express our thanks to John Alderson formerly of Lamberlea Garden Centre, for his generous help.

Looking to the future, we feel that we should try and employ a professional gardener \* to carry out routine care during the growing season, and to undertake necessary pruning at the right time of the year. In the past we have relied on voluntary work, but for a number of well appreciated reasons, it is difficult for them to provide the regular care needed. We anticipate the cost of professional care will be about £1,000 a year. Donations towards this cost will always be greatly appreciated. There is a memorial book in the Lady Chapel alongside a collecting box. Donations can also be made directly to the Priory, earmarked for the Sleeping Child Garden.

\* While it is our intention to employ a professional gardener, actually finding one is proving difficult. If you have any ideas in this respect please let us have your suggestions!

## ***Beach Road Bakehouse***

(previously Hartley's Beach Shop & Tearooms)

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Cafe Owner of Beach Road Bakehouse,

We have some exciting ideas to bring to St Bees: as always, we would love to hear from the locals on what they would like the cafe to become - please email suggestions to [hello@beachroadbakehouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@beachroadbakehouse.co.uk) or find our business page on Facebook / Instagram.

The core of my business is using local suppliers/ producers where possible, sending customers away satisfied with our high-quality artisan products. That being said, what I aim to bring to St Bees is the supply of homemade artisan breads and pastries, along with continuing our supply of homemade bakes from my original business based in Kells - "Bakes by Gina".

We will continue with a beach cafe style, initially serving homemade ice cream, cakes and locally roasted coffee / drinks before launching our meals soon after. We plan to maintain the shop area too, so are keen to hear from local suppliers.

I want to take the time to thank the Richardson family, Nicola & Shirley in particular for their support of my current business "Bakes by Gina" as Hartley's Cafe was where our first wholesale orders began 18 months ago, along with the Milburn family who have been working alongside me whilst we renovate ready for opening.

There is no opening date set yet, but I can assure you that we are pushing on to open as soon as possible - ideally March.

***Gina Goulding***

## ***Florence Arts Centre***

***Wrestle*** is hosting an exhibition in September 2025 of paintings by Janet Moss about Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, in time for the Egremont Crab Fair. We invite the community to get involved in a project around the traditional embroidered costumes. Working with local textile artists Fabricate at our monthly Craft Cafes until June 2025, we will create a new wrestling costume. If you would like to join in by embroidering a small motif of your own choosing, please get in touch, or just come along to one of the Craft Cafes. Materials will be provided if needed. Telephone 01946 824946 or [florence@florenceartscentre.com](mailto:florence@florenceartscentre.com).

## ***Friends of the Priory Events***

A Talk by Peter Rooke of the St Bees Railway Museum will be given on 'The Coming of the Railways to Whitehaven' including St Bees and the Corkickle Tunnel – on Friday 7th March at 7.30 pm in New College Hall. Various artefacts on view. All welcome! Refreshments served.

## ***St Bees Seagalls***

The Seagalls look forward to celebrating their 10th year and are planning a celebration party on Sunday 13th July.

2025 got off to a great start with a good turnout for our February meet-up in the Seacote Hotel. Pete Seex kept us entertained with his insight into living and working in Vietnam whilst teaching there. It was lovely to get an insight into local culture, food, housing and even his son's wedding and wedding traditions. We even gained an insight into local health care when unfortunately he and Nat had a motorbike accident. Thank you, and we hope you both enjoy your holiday and seeing Adam and his family this week.

Just to note we meet up usually at 7pm unless stated otherwise. Tuesday 4th March at 7pm is our next meet-up in the Seacote. We are focusing on women's health and wellness.

Please remember anyone is welcome, all age groups. It may be a help if you have just moved into the village or somewhere nearby. You can just turn up or give me a ring. Contact in the back of the booklet. We will also post a meeting reminder on the village Facebook site.

## ***WI News***

At our February meeting, we welcomed Ralph Mitchell of 'Keekle Art Glass'. Ralph talked about his Art Glass Business. He sells his items at Lowes Court Gallery in Egremont, Farmers' Markets and Craft Fairs. We were told about the glass processes, which glass he uses, how the glass is cut and shaped into unique designs with added colours and patterns, and how the glass is fired in an electric kiln. After the glass has cooled, he is left with beautiful and colourful glass items, like coasters, pictures and jewelry. It was also nice to welcome lots of new faces on a cold February night: thank you all for joining us, this was followed by a Raffle and refreshments.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 10 March at the Seacote Hotel 7.30 pm. This is our Annual General meeting (which is a short re-cap of 2024 events and what we have planned for 2025), followed by the ever-popular Quiz by Jon Mellor. Our St Bees WI ladies are pretty good at general knowledge - how do you think you would fare? Why not make up a team (maximum 4) and test those little grey cells! Visitors £4, including Tea/coffee, and as always new members are most welcome, just turn up on the night, looking forward to seeing you!

Further details, Village notice Boards, our Facebook page [www.St-Bees-WI.facebook](http://www.St-Bees-WI.facebook) and any WI member.

## ***Over 60s Club:***

Over 60s will start again on March 4th in Hodgetts Club. The meeting will start at 1 30 pm instead of 2.00 pm as we are being entertained by the village school children who have to be back for a certain time. The meeting for 18 March will also take place in the club but has not been arranged yet. We look forward to seeing you all again

To "Speak Boldly" is one of the four core values of the God for All Vision in Carlisle Diocese. It speaks of our commitment to...share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We'll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways.

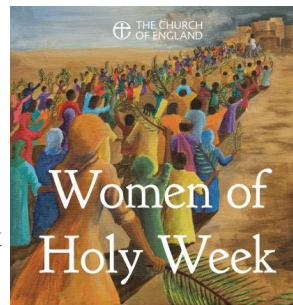
**Outcomes:**

- To facilitate giving everyone the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ.
  - To equip Christians to speak naturally about their faith.
  - To help Christians speak about Christian viewpoints on the important issues of today.
  - To enable more connections with under-represented groups in our churches, and to plant new churches and worshipping communities.
- See [www.godforall.org.uk](http://www.godforall.org.uk) to learn more

If you are interested in **baptism or confirmation** please do get in touch with Reverend Becky. Baptism is available to all ages and Confirmation is usually offered to anyone over the age of ten who has been baptised.

This Lent the Coast to Fells Mission Community is running a six week course based on the book "**Women of Holy Week**" by Paula Gooder. These nine stories imagine what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week of his life from the perspective of nine women. There will be group discussions based on the chapters the week beginning 10th March on **Tuesday evenings**, 7-8.30pm on Zoom and in person on **Thursdays** from 1.15-2.45pm at The Meeting Place in Egremont. Please get in touch with Rev Becky for the Zoom link or for a copy of the book. It isn't necessary to attend all the sessions. There will be no session in Holy Week.

The stories are available as a podcast here; [www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/women-holy-week](http://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/women-holy-week)



It is understandable that many of us have a crisis of confidence in relation to the Church of England. Recent revelations with regard to inappropriate behaviour and mismanagement within the Church of England is causing the organisation to look inwardly as to how this has come about ! Once it is investigated, 'lessons must be learned' and action taken. The Church of England can then embark on an uphill struggle to demonstrate that it is worthy to regain the lost confidence. There is no point in being in denial about what has and may still be happening. Nevertheless, as with National demographics, there are still more good people working very hard, than those who are called into question. Nor more so than in our own Parish. ' KEEP THE FAITH ! '  
*Grant Gilmour. Member of St Bees PCC*

The leadership of our present world is in the hands of a few powerful men of great wealth who hold the future of the world in their hands. But what makes a great leader ? For the actor, Sir Anthony Hopkins, it is summed up in this reflection on the life of Jesus Christ.

The Greatest Man in History - Sir Anthony Hopkins

Jesus had no servants yet they called him Master.  
He had no degree yet they called him Teacher.  
He had no medicines yet they called him Healer.  
He had no army yet kings feared him.  
He won no military battles yet he conquered the world.  
He did not live in a castle yet they called him Lord.  
He ruled no nations yet they called him King.  
He committed no crime yet they crucified him.  
He was buried in a tomb yet he lives today.  
His Kingdom is not of this world yet it lives in the hearts of those who believe.  
He spoke of love and forgiveness and his words have transformed millions.  
He offers no material wealth yet we consider him the treasure of our lives.  
He promises no earthly power yet in his name the powerless have found strength.  
Though he left no written words his message has filled countless pages.  
In his weakness we find our strength.  
In his suffering we find our salvation.  
He continues to invite us into a story of redemption, love and eternal life.  
His name is Jesus Christ.

From a sermon delivered by Reverend Anne Baker in February 2025, with thanks.

# KIDS' CORNER

**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus faces temptation and relies on God to get through it.



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Draw the three temptations Jesus faced, which are written below each box.

Turn stones to bread	Have the whole world	Be saved when falling from a big tower

**Puzzle**

Help Jesus find the right path through the wilderness.

